



Cooking treat

Win is not pie in the sky for Hannah

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Memory Lane

Brian re-united with his beloved old car

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Albion

City push Baggies closer to the drop

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Charity shop is wrecked by blaze

A CHARITY shop in Dudley was gutted after a severe blaze tore through it engulfing fixtures and stock.

Flames took hold at the Extra Care Charitable Trust shop, Castle Street, at around 12.30pm on Saturday.

The inside of the building suffered 100 per cent heat and fire damage and 50 per cent smoke damage, according to West Midlands Fire Service.

The heat smashed a main window.

Fire crews from Dudley, Brierley Hill and Ladywood were called to tackle the blaze.

Police were also called to ensure shoppers remained at a safe distance from the store.

Fire crews said two people in the store had got out before they arrived and no-one had been hurt despite the severity of the blaze.

The store remained boarded up this week as investigations into the cause of the fire continued.

During the blaze, the Greggs store next door was closed early as a precaution.

Crews remained until 5.10pm to ensure the fire had not spread to other parts of the building. A fire service spokeswoman said there was still no indication of what had started the fire.

Poetic seats for market

SEATING could be created around at the heart of the multi-million regeneration of Dudley Market.

Two seats inscribed with lines from a humorous poem by Ben Boucher will be installed if Dudley Council gives the go-ahead. The 1827 poem Lines on Dudley Market takes a wry look at busy working days.

The seats and a cast bronze figure of Boucher would be next to the Fountain. Plans have been submitted by Dudley's urban environment department.

UNDER THREAT PUB RESCUED

THE ale will be flowing again at a demolition-threatened pub in Halesowen after it was announced it would be taken over by a micro-brewery.

Lower Gornal-based Black Country Ales is buying the Swan Inn in Long Lane following a campaign to keep it going by the community and The Campaign for Real Ale (Camra).

The firm, which already has 31 pubs, this week signalled its intention to refurbish the pub at a six-figure cost and bring in a wide range of its real ales after agreeing to the purchase.

Bosses plan to reopen it by the end of the summer.

The deal comes after a campaign by the community to stop a convenience store being built at the site under plans by Punch Tavern, which said the pub was no longer viable for business.

A planning application proposal, which was also opposed by Camra, was thrown out by councillors on a Dudley Council planning committee last year.

Dissent

Black Country Ales director Martin Wilkins said: "We are delighted that we will be able to keep the pub pouring beer and hope that local people will continue to support the pub that they have done so much to save."

He added: "It is well known that one of the major supermarkets had previously done a deal with Punch Tavern to turn the pub into a convenience store, but there was significant dissent from local people and a strong campaign from the local branch of Camra."

"Without the backing of Camra and the petition it is doubtful that this pub would

by Alex Ross

have survived. It has another chance to thrive now and we will be doing all that we can to make it a success."

Simon Hanson, chairman of the Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of CAMRA, said: "We welcome the firm's purchase of this local pub."

"It shows the attention to detail the company have got that they have picked up this excellent pub and decided to keep it as a pub and not let it fade into obscurity."

Councillor Jeff Hill helped run a petition against Punch Taverns' proposal for a convenience store. Residents objected to the plan due to fears of its impact on nearby shops and road safety. Councillor Hill said: "It is great news to hear the Swan Inn is here for the future, it is even more pleasing to hear a local highly-regarded company is to take it over."

"I am sure, with a bit of work to refurbish the pub, it will be a great success."

The pub closed last year as Punch Taverns failed to get approval for its proposal. However, two months ago it was reopened by licensee Polly and Mark Johnson who were asked to run it ahead of the change in hands later this year.

Towering fun with latest production



I know nothing . . . Mayhem Theatre Group's Matthew Webb, Kenneth Baker and Victoria Saunders

MUCH-LOVED scenes from legendary British comedy Fawlty Towers will be re-created by a Halesowen-based theatre group at its next show.

Mayhem Theatre Group will perform well-known episodes of the hit 1970s series, which featured John Cleese, at Quarry Bank's Hardwicke Theatre.

The group uses Thorns Community College and the show will run from April 30 until May 3. Tickets cost £7

and are available by calling 0121 559 6549 or by visiting the Spex Maniax store, in Hagley Road, Halesowen.

Only 12 episodes of the original show were produced between 1975 and 1979 but it remains one of the country's best-known sitcoms.

Stepping into John Cleese's shoes as Basil for the Mayhem's show will be David Williams.

Group spokesman Mark Moran said his his take on the lead on the lead

role was 'uncanny'. He added: "Fawlty Towers is an iconic show. Performing episodes on a single stage is a challenge."

"However, we are very proud of the production and I think it is the biggest and best the group has ever done."

"We are keeping the episodes we are performing a secret so there will be an element of surprise for audiences."

"We are really looking forward to bringing it to the stage."

Firm wins £87,000 to help research

A MAINTENANCE management business, which is based in Coombswood Way, Halesowen, has won Government backing for a new research project.

Entec International, is working with the University of Portsmouth on a 'big data' project to help companies improve the efficiency of their maintenance work and their parts inventories.

Entec works in maintenance, repair and operations procurement and supply chain management, and the project has been awarded an £87,000 grant by the Government's Technology Strategy Board.

The partnership with the university will aim to establish, along with clients and suppliers, a data mining project requiring access to significant usage, movement, asset, lifecycle and production data.

The analysis of these information will feed into a proposal to reorganise MRO inventory across complex global markets.

Entec said the objectives were to create a global, regional and local stock model to take into account demand, market and supply chain complexity.

Entec director Mike Robinson said: "We have been working with the University of Portsmouth for a while to secure the funding."

Zoo entrance will be lit up

DUDLEY Zoo's 'wave' entrance will be lit up as part of future plans for the attraction, bosses have revealed.

Work is taking place to restore the row of five gates and eight turnstiles as part of a multi-million pound improvement scheme at the attraction.

But zoo bosses said they had further plans for the iconic entrance already in the pipeline. They want the entrance, to be lit up for the first time in its history.

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Events firm gives Hippodrome hope

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save the Dudley Hippodrome building have heralded a proposal by an events company to run the venue. Arts and entertainment company Events That Rok has submitted a business plan to run the old theatre, in Castle Hill, near the zoo.

Members of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group have long been campaigning to stop council bosses

pursuing controversial plans to bulldoze the building. They had submitted their own outline business plan to run the venue – but that was deemed unviable by independent assessors. Council bosses want to demolish the site to make way for a £3 million education and conference centre for Dudley Zoo.

Two planning applications have

been tabled to win approval to demolish the theatre-turned-bingo hall opposite the Station Hotel. But regeneration boss, Councillor Judy Foster, has revealed the council will put the application on hold while the new business plan is put through the same assessment. Events That Rok has spoken to the friends group over its initial interest in taking over the theatre.

The firm was co-founded by businessman Jonathan Kendrick. His father, Vic Kendrick, owned the Castle Hill theatre in the 1960s when it was being revamped as a casino club. Friends group chairman Gordon Downing said: “They have been working with us. It means that we have a chance to make progress and look towards reopening it.”

Pubs hit with fines over football on TV

TWO pubs in Dudley have each been hit with a court bill of more than £2,000 for showing football matches to punters on TVs in their premises without the correct licence.

The Prince Albert Inn, Wall Heath, and the Rose and Crown, Brierley Hill, were caught when Sky investigators visited and found Premiership matches being shown on Sky Sports TV without the correct

licence.

The jobless queues are shrinking

HUNDREDS have come off the jobless queues in Dudley as new figures show unemployment fell by 77,000 across the UK in the three months to February, down to 2.24 million.

In the West Midlands there was a spike in unemployment, as it rose by 2,000 to 224,000 – probably due to the end of short-time Christmas jobs.

The region's jobless total is down by 28,000 on the same period last year.

But the number's claiming jobseeker's allowance across the country fell by 30,400 in March to 1.14 million, the 17th consecutive monthly reduction according to the Office for National Statistics.

Above

In Dudley the claimant count fell by 228 to 7,998, or 4.1 per cent of the borough's working population.

But the claimant rate is still well above the national average of 2.9 per cent.

Nationwide employment has increased by 691,000 over the past year, giving a rate of 72.6 per cent, the best for six years, with a record 30.3 million people in work.

Melvyn Edwards, licensee and supervisor of the Prince Albert Inn, High Street, and Mark Pritchard, a supervisor at the Rose and Crown, Bank Street, were fined. Neither appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court on Thursday, but pleaded guilty by letter. Edwards admitted two counts of dishonestly receiving a programme with intent to avoid payment on October 19 and November 2 last year. Pritchard admitted the same offence on September 16, October 29 and November 2.

Mr Alan Richards, prosecuting on behalf of Sky, said: “Investigators visited the pubs and saw that matches were being watched on TV without the correct non-domestic licence. The pubs where then contacted over the phone and by letter.”

He said Edwards was advised by Sky about showing matches, while Pritchard agreed with Sky to stop showing matches and agreed to a cease and desist order.

But when investigators revisited both pubs they found matches were still being shown. The licence for the Rose and Crown would have cost £1,108 a month and the Prince Albert's would have been £1,780.

Edwards was fined £410 for each offence with court costs of £1,200 and a £82 victim surcharge.

Pritchard was fined £185 for each offence with £1,428.28 costs and a £56 victim surcharge.

Darters take aim to help charity



Ella Breeze with, from left: Shaun Breeze, Martin Rowley, Pete Whittaker and Stacey Whittaker

DART players will be stepping up to the oche for an annual charity tournament on Saturday. It is being held at the Welfare Club, Commside, Pensnett, in tribute to blind player John Westwood who once defeated former world champion Eric Bristow.

Mr Westwood, nicknamed Johnny Dart-board, successfully played the game despite being registered blind. He would throw from memory hitting trebles and doubles as his team-mates would call out the score. Mr Westwood, who was also known as

The Legend, died in 2006 aged of 59 after suffering a heart attack.

The event is organised by his widow Anita. Mr Westwood played for Worcester County Team and in 2004 he was the only darter to beat Eric Bristow in an exhibition match at the High Acres.

Cash raised will be donated to Guide Dogs for the Blind. Competitors are able to register until 1.45pm on the day.

It costs £5 to take part and the knockout competition will begin at 2pm.

Police officers injured in crash

TWO police officers were injured when a suspected drink-driver ploughed into their police car in Dudley.

They were on patrol in their vehicle at the junction of Smithy Lane and Tansey Green Road at around 2.40am on Saturday when a Volkswagen Golf mounted the pavement before smashing into them.

The driver of the police car managed to get out of his car – despite suffering a minor injury – and detained a 44-year-old man on suspicion of drink-driving.

Both officers were taken to hospital.

Chief Inspector Jack Hadley, force incident manager, said: “Both officers were extremely lucky not to suffer more serious injuries.

“They were on a routine patrol when the collision happened.

“The driver of the other car had lost control of his vehicle and the end result could have been far worse.”

“I want to remind everyone to think carefully before getting behind the wheel this weekend – there is absolutely no excuse for driving while drunk.”

Baking for St George's Day

THE programme of event for St George's Day celebrations in Brierley Hill on Saturday have been finalised.

Activities will start with a civic opening at 10.30am led by Dudley's mayor Councillor Alan Finch. Maggie O'Hara will then perform a patriotic sing-a-long.

Performers will include the Sedgley Morris Men, Brierley Hill Musical Theatre, Black Country Gaz and the Kingswinford Air Training Corps Band. There will be the Great Brierley Hill Bake-Off and Brierley Hill Library will be running a colouring competition.

Delivering design

YOUNGSTERS are being the chance to submit designs to be used on the sides of a supermarket chain's delivery vans.

Every time a Tesco driver delivers to a family with children under-12 they will be given an opportunity to design the side of the van which has just delivered to them. Branches in Dudley, Walsall and West Bromwich will be taking part.

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Arsonist attack damages scrapyards

ARSONISTS destroyed cars at a Coseley scrapyards, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Seven cars were burned out at the business of TCL Ford, together with a van and an operational recovery truck owned by the company.

Firefighters were called to the blaze at the business on Webb Street, Coseley, at around 2.50am on Tuesday and spent nearly two hours tackling the flames.

Managing director Lee Evans said the arsonists had caused around £10,000 worth of damage, although he said the recovery truck was repairable.

He said: "It's just mindless thuggery, not to mention putting people's lives in danger."

He added: "We are a business like everybody else and it's people's livelihoods they are playing with."

The attack comes after a fly-tipper dumped around 500 tyres outside the scrapyards' gates on Thursday night, according to Mr Evans.

Crews from Dudley, Tipton and Bilston, tackled the blaze.

The Environment Agency was alerted because of water run-off

Store plan set for approval

A FORMER shop and office in Enville Road, Wall Heath, is set to be turned into a convenience store after plans were recommended for approval.

The site is vacant and proposals for the change of use have been submitted to Dudley Council. As part of the scheme, the front of the shop would also be replaced to incorporate a roller shutter. More than 40 nearby premises have been notified and no objections have been received.

The proposal was due to be discussed by Dudley Council's development control committee this week.

Circus rolls in

THE circus has rolled into town. The Big Top will be at Webbs Garden Centre in Kidderminster Road South, West Hagley, until Sunday. It is returning, after sell-out visits last year, with a new show. There will be at 11am, 2pm and 4pm. Tickets are £5 per person.

Former councillor was 'force for the good'



Mary Docker – tributes

MEMBERS of the community helped by the efforts of a former councillor have paid tribute to her saying she 'was a force for the good' for the area she represented.

Mary Docker served as a councillor from 2004 to 2012 in the Blackheath ward, where she worked as a market trader, running the Moonbeam Textiles stall. She was also the former deputy leader of Sandwell's Conservative opposition party before losing her seat. The mother of two died a few weeks short of

her 60th birthday, after losing her battle with cancer and her funeral is due to take place at St Hubert's RC Church, Oldbury, on Tuesday at 11am followed by burial at Rowley Regis Cemetery.

A minute's silence was held at a Sandwell Council meeting and tributes from Conservative colleagues flooded in.

During her time as a councillor and even afterwards, she was involved in a range of campaigns including for a ramp for wheelchair

users at Powke Lane Cemetery in Rowley Regis.

Wayne Parkes, former branch secretary of Blackheath Royal British Legion who worked with Mrs Docker at the time, said: "She was a force for the good of the area without a shadow of a doubt."

Mrs Docker had also been chairman of the Blackheath Business and Community Association, which meant she was involved in the organisation of the annual Tree of Life event in the town, at St Paul's

Church, Long Lane, in memory of lost loved ones. She has also overseen the town's 15 camera CCTV surveillance system and helped manage traders' radio link, working with police to provide evidence on crime, as well as campaigning in the interests of traders.

Sue Fullwood, who used to work in the market at Blackheath at the Scribbles stall with Mrs Docker, said: "A lot of good things in Blackheath would not be in place without her pushing and pushing."

300 residents raise fears over speeding hotspot

MORE than 300 people have responded to a survey carried out as part of a campaign to tackle speeding drivers on a busy road.

Concerns have been raised following a number of crashes and 'near misses' on The Northway in Sedgley by Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

He said cars are regularly breaking the speed limit and lorries have been seen thundering down the road.

Security up after college vandalism

COLLEGE bosses are stepping up security with support from police following a spate of vandalism at a disused site in Stourbridge.

Arsonist started two fires at the former Longlands School, Brook Street, last Friday.

It was the latest andal attacks at the school, which is now owned by Birmingham Metropolitan College.

Executive director of estates John Starmer said: "We have experienced spates of vandalism at the Longlands site as it can be accessed through several different entry points."

"We take our duty of care very seriously and are putting additional mobile security patrols into the schedule in an effort to combat the problems we've experienced. We have also contacted local police to enlist further support whilst we endeavour to find a buyer for the site."

The school opened in 1912 but closed in the 1990s. Stourbridge College brought it back to use but it shut for good three years ago when a £12m creative arts complex in Brierley Hill opened.

As part of his calls for action, he carried out a survey of homes and more than three quarters of the 300 plus responses said speeding was a serious problem.

Many of the residents said they had witnessed an accident or knew someone who had been involved in one.

Mr Austin said two thirds of people who responded said they wanted traffic-calming measures to tackle the issue, with 35 per cent backing speed-limit signs and 30 per cent calling for speed bumps.

Heavy

The results also showed more than half believed a pedestrian crossing would reduce accidents, while more than 75 per cent said they would support a weight limit on the Northway to stop heavy vehicles thundering down the road.

"Northway residents have told me that speeding on the road is so bad that near misses happen weekly and accidents are becoming more common," said Mr Austin. "I'm now taking local residents' views to local councillors and Dudley Council."

In response, Dudley Council's transport chief Councillor Kurshid Ahmed, said: "We have implemented a number of safety measures on the Northway in recent years. We will ask our police colleagues to consider further enforcement."

Albion stars visit 106-year-old fan



Albion players James Morrison and Liam O'Neil visit lifelong Baggies fan Jack Jones at Tudor Manor Care Home

ALBION stars James Morrison and Liam O'Neil dropped in to visit a lifelong Baggies fan to congratulate him on his 106th birthday.

The duo popped in to Tudor Manor Care Home, Brook Street, Stourbridge, to visit Jack Jones, after seeing pupils at Redhill School in the town earlier in the day.

It was the fourth birthday celebration for Mr Jones for his milestone — Banks's Brewery sent him some beer before his big day, he had a cele-

bration at the care home, a trip to his favourite pub The Greyhound on Norton Road, and then the chance to meet some of the players from the team he has supported since childhood.

Mr Jones went to see his first game aged 12, when he cycled from Churchill village near Blakedown to The Hawthorns at West Bromwich. En route his friend's bicycle chain broke so Mr Jones tied their two bikes together so he could tow his friend along, before they had to barter for a new chain so

they could get home afterwards.

After holding a season ticket in the Smethwick End for many of the years he has supported the club, Mr Jones said it was a 'delight' to meet the players.

Mr Jones, born in Enville in 1908 just 30 years after the club was founded, said: "I never expected to have a birthday like this. It's been marvellous." Midfielder Morrison added: "It was a real pleasure and honour to meet Jack."

NEWS in brief

Residents urged to give feedback

RESIDENTS are being urged to have their say on the future of Dudley town centre.

Regeneration projects are planned to boost Dudley with the aim of increasing tourism and bringing shoppers to the high street. On the table are plans to build a supermarket, develop a car park and connect the town's attractions.

Get questionnaires from Dudley Council Plus, Dudley Library and Dudley Museum. Or visit Visit www.dudley.gov.uk online.

Living it Arg at Merry Hill visit

REALITY TV star James 'Arg' Argent has been meeting fans at Merry Hill Shopping Centre to promote his autobiography.

The 26-year-old Only Way Is Essex (Towie) star reveals behind-the-scenes secrets of the show in Living it Arg. He said: "This looks into my life before the show. In it I talk about being bullied at school."

During the visit he talked about the 12th series and dropped hints about his on-off romance with Lydia Bright.

Tenants meet to discuss high life

TENANTS who live in high rise properties are invited to discuss issues at a dedicated meeting.

Dudley Council host the session on Tuesday, April 29, at Saltwells Education Centre, Bowling Green Road, from 7pm to 8.30pm.

The meeting is open to any tenant or leaseholder living in one of Dudley Council's high rise blocks. Anyone wishing to attend should call (01384) 815168.

20mph speed limit planned for school

A 20mph speed limit is set to be introduced outside a Dudley primary school.

Dudley Council wants to cut the speed of cars travelling past Bramford Primary School. Councillors, parents and residents have all been consulted on the Safer Routes to School scheme. No objections were received and two residents registered support.

Golfers pitch in

GENEROUS golfers have helped raise more than £4,000 for children's charity Barnardo's. Members of Hagley Golf and Country Club held fundraising events in aid of helps vulnerable youngsters.

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ONE report this week shows Britain has fewer hospital beds than most European countries. Another report reveals that one patient in 16 picks up an infection in hospital. So even if we had more NHS beds, who'd want to stay in them?

□□□□□□□□

IT IS claimed that the number of food parcels given away by food banks is rising towards one million. They have grown under the Coalition, just as they did under the last Labour government. They will continue to grow under whichever party forms the next government. Food banks are part of the 21st century political landscape and it is almost impossible to question their motives or their value without sounding hard-hearted. For the Tories, the only credible and acceptable response to food banks is to embrace them as part of the Big Society, to acknowledge that no welfare system will ever be 100 per cent efficient and to congratulate people who give their time and gifts to help those who slip through the welfare net. As long as cash and food donations are given to food banks freely by individuals and companies, no-one should object. And if Labour politicians are daft enough to brandish the rise of food banks as a club to whack the Tories, what will they be saying in 2020 when Labour has been in power for five years and the food banks are just about to hand over their two millionth parcel?

□□□□□□□□

THE Daily Mirror used a poignant front-page picture of a sobbing child to illustrate the desperation of families using food banks. It now emerges that the picture was taken years ago. The child is an American kid, the daughter of a photographer, who had been upset by losing an earthworm. There was absolutely no connection between this anguished child and food banks. Does it matter? I hope not. Newspapers and magazines tend to use generic, unidentified images when it would be wrong to identify an individual. I once worked on a paper whose photo library included an image of an old lady reading by the light of a candle. We used that image time after time to illustrate features on everything from loneliness in old age to burglary, adult literacy, dementia and power cuts.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Police launch blitz on doorstep tricksters

A CRACKDOWN on rogue traders and bogus callers preying on residents across Halesowen has been launched by police.

Neighbourhood officers have been visiting properties in Belle Vale and Hayley Green.

They have been carrying out checks on tradesmen carrying out work on properties to ensure they are trading legally.

It's the latest action to be taken by police who are working with Dudley Council's trading standards team and follows a similar crackdown in Brierley Hill.

Signs are being installed in Halesowen to warn rogue traders they will be reported if they 'cold call' in a new No Rogue Trader Zone, which has been set up.

Prevention

Officers took to the streets last week to hand out crime prevention advice to residents living in streets that have been previously targeted by bogus-callers and rogue traders.

As part of the initiative leaflets were delivered advising residents to be alert to people turning up unannounced and convince them to get costly and unnecessary work carried out on their homes.

Pest control, path cleaning and hedge trimming are said to be just some of the common cons with other fraudsters claiming to be

by Heather Large

carrying out water main repairs or even posing as police officers.

Sergeant Heather Sloan, of the Belle Vale and Hayley Green neighbourhood teams, said: "Initiatives like this are really beneficial to our elderly and vulnerable members of the community.

"Working with trading standards has enabled us to flood over 15 streets across the area offering crime prevention advice and reassurance to those who need it."

John Millar, director of urban environment at Dudley Council, added: "We work hard as a local authority, in partnership with police, to tackle rogue traders and ensure people are protected from these criminals.

"We also have a very successful Fix A Home scheme where people can search for reputable traders to carry out work on their home, and avoid being a victim of a rogue trader."

Win is not pie in the sky



Hannah Williams with celebrity chef James Martin

A COOK from Halesowen spent the day with celebrity chef James Martin after winning a competition.

Hannah Williams won the cooking master class through a contest run by Vintage Inns during British Pie Week.

Pie fans had to send in pictures of themselves tucking into a Vintage Inn pie. The winners were chosen at random and invited to the Avegia, London.

The 23-year-old was one of seven winners who spent the day cooking with the chef and perfecting the perfect pie.

She said: "I was absolutely overwhelmed that I won the competition and got to spend the day with James."

"I entered the competition after enjoying a meal at the Swallows Nest in Romsey as I enjoy cooking and I'm a massive fan of James Martin. I had a brilliant day and really enjoyed myself. I've learnt lots of new tips from James that I'll certainly be trying out at home."

Mr Martin said: "Hannah really enjoyed the cooking class."

Chapel to become venue for weddings

A DERELICT former chapel in Lye is to become a wedding venue after planning chiefs said yes to the proposal.

The grade II-listed building is to be restored and will house a registry office for civil ceremonies after the redundant 19th century property was sold to building preservation charity The West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust.

The Lye and Wollescote Chapel, Cemetery Road, is to become the second registration office in the borough after Dudley Council announced its sale to the not-for-profit organisation.

The trust plans to use a £1 million Heritage lottery fund to refurbish the rare surviving example of a cemetery chapel. It has not been used since 1993 but it is anticipated it will be open by next April.

It is planned the building will be leased back to the council for a registration office for marriages, citizenship ceremonies, naming ceremonies, civil partnership ceremonies and for wedding vow renewals.

Duncan Lowndes, Dudley's assistant director of culture and leisure, said: "I am delighted that we have found a way to bring this beautiful landmark building back into public use at little cost to the public purse."

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Transport bosses let youngsters have a say

YOUNG people from the Black Country advising transport bosses on the needs of passengers as part of a new youth forum.

Transport authority Centro has formed its Youth Forum to get views on bus, train and tram services and how they could be improved for young people. The 29-strong team, with members from across the Black Country, will meet regularly with Centro staff to contribute to discussions on transport policies.

The group will also be tasked with helping to form ideas to better connect passenger information with new technology.

Members of the group, aged 13 to 20, held their first meeting recently at Centro's Birmingham headquarters.

Centro's education boss Rachel Evans said: "The rise of technology has meant that the younger generation of public transport users often have a different outlook on how their lives could be made easier."

"We have already developed journey planning smartphone apps and expanded our real time information systems but these are the people who are best placed to help us ensure we are meeting the demands of the modern commuter."

The group will meet again in June to help draw up a code of conduct for bus use. For details email: youthforum@centro.org.uk

Decision due on £2m bid to build animal hospital

A £2 million animal hospital has been recommended for approval at a meeting being held by councillors this week.

The plans come after an increase in demand for services by the PDSA at its current base in Hagley Road, Quinton.

The centre would be built on Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, if councillors backed the scheme at yesterday's meeting. The charity has been raising money to fund the construction of the new hospital, which would have a spacious, two-storey waiting area, which has been designed to keep the area cool and well ventilated.

Free

The rest of the building would be single storey and have two operating theatres, a dental theatre and six consulting rooms as well as staff accommodation, on a site formerly owned by the council. Plans to build a new animal hospital in the borough have been in the pipeline since 2011.

A letter sent to Sandwell Council's planning department by Anthony Keith Architects Ltd on behalf of the charity said: "The PDSA is a charity which provides veterinary services free to those who cannot afford them and has a centre on Hagley Road, Quinton which is too small for their current needs."

"The staff from Hagley

by Dan Wainwright

Road will be transferred to the new centre and additional staff taken on.

"The site has been chosen because it is located within the community it seeks to serve and is on a main public transport corridor thus making the site accessible by both private and public transport."

"Veterinary medical procedures are developing rapidly and it is essential that the maximum flexibility is built into the design. It is steel framed with no internal support structure to allow for maximum flexibility in use and the layout to be changed and developed to maximise the life of the building."

The letter goes on to say that around 30 full and part-time staff from the old centre would be kept on and there will be potential for the creation of more jobs in the future.

It would open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Zombie apocalypse due in Birmingham



Walkers inspired by comedy horror movie Shaun of the Dead are ready for a ghoulish fundraiser in the city

THE streets of Birmingham will look the scene from a horror film when more than 2,000 people dress up as zombies for a march in aid of the Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Thousands of fundraisers will once again dress up in ghoulish blood-spattered attire and put on pallid make up to look like the walking dead to scare up some funds.

The increasingly popular event, which is due to take part on September 13, is the brainchild of seasoned

flash mob organiser Jamie Chapman, who this year won the Birmingham Inspire Young Fundraiser of the Year award.

"It's been awesome watching the Zombie Walk grow since it first started back in 2009, when less than 100 people turned up. It's crazy to think that the event now attracts thousands, all wanting to have fun and raise money for a good cause," explains the 23-year-old from Sutton Coldfield.

The walk, supported by Free Radio,

is set to take place in central Birmingham.

Birmingham Children's Hospital Events Manager, Lucie O'Reilly, said: "We have been overwhelmed by the support of the Zombie Walk team who have raised almost £15,000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital since the event began in 2009. "Due to the organisers' hard work and dedication, this event has grown in popularity each year attracting thousands of 'zombies' at last year's event."

NEWS in brief

Members gear up for classic car show

DOZENS of car enthusiasts are expected to turn out for a meeting of The New Unnamed Classic Car Group, fundraising for Teenage Cancer Trust.

The group was created last year by Ian Macaulay, of Brierley Hill. He said: "I had been a member of a number of different groups but I kept getting annoyed at the politics of them all, so I decided to start my own informal group that was more about the hobby of owning a classic car. So far it's proven really popular."

Their first event of the year is on Sunday at The Old Waggon and Horses pub on the A451 between Kidderminster and Stourbridge, from noon. Contact Mr Macaulay on 07732 054569.

Living it Arg at Merry Hill visit

REALITY TV star James 'Arg' Argent has been meeting fans at Merry Hill Shopping Centre to promote his autobiography.

The 26-year-old Only Way Is Essex (Towie) star reveals behind-the-scenes secrets of the show in Living it Arg.

He said: "This looks into my life before the show. In it I talk about being bullied at school and how I came to meet my best friend Mark Wright."

During the visit he talked about the 12th series and dropped hints about his on-off romance with Lydia Bright.

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IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

SO after years of being told to cut down on our drinking, at last there's an expert who has come up with some advice we can all raise a glass to.

Dr Kari Poiklainen, who used to work for the World Health Organisation now says its okay to drink six pints a day.

Or if beer's not your bag, a full bottle of wine is all right too.

He says 'moderate' drinking is better for your health than abstinence, which in itself is probably not that controversial. But it is his definition of moderation which might raise one or two eyebrows.

Apparently, Dr Poiklainen – try saying that after six pints of Banks's – reckons anything up to 13 units a day should be ok.

To put that into context, the Government's recommended limit is 14 units a week for women, and 21 for men. Or in the traditionally po-faced US, it's 14 units a week full stop. In fact, you may remember a while back they tried stopping anybody from drinking anything at all, and that worked out, didn't it?

Still, Dr Poiklainen has been researching the effects of alcohol for years, something I have no difficulty in believing.

And you have to say, the prospect of joining for a spot of his 'research' does sound rather good fun, doesn't it? You know, ask him nicely, and he might take you on a tour of some of his favourite labs.

Predictably, the anti-drinking establishment has been unimpressed by the Finnish experts' work, with Julia Manning of the think-tank 2020Health, describing his claims as 'an unhelpful contribution to the debate.'

Now I tend to be deeply sceptical of anyone who thinks that jumbling up letters and numerals, with no gap in between, is the hallmark of a modern, progressive organisation.

And I really would like to believe Dr Poiklainen, who of course has a book to sell, but on this occasion I fear Mrs Manning might be right.

My first reaction on reading about Dr Poiklainen's work was that I wished he was my doctor. I mean, who wouldn't want to be told it's ok to live every day like closing-time at Oktoberfest?

But having thought about it again, perhaps not.

No doubt, Dr Poiklainen is a very well respected, educated man. I'm sure he has got lots of letters after his name – come to mention it, he's got a fair few letters in his name, hasn't he?

But when push comes to shove, I'm not sure he's the type of man I would want to be brandishing the scalpel during a delicate piece of surgery.

Not after he's been on a 'moderate' drinking session, anyway.



Anglo Saxon expert Chris Fern with a folded great cross



Curator David Symons looks at a discovered item



The complete Staffordshire hoard on show for the first time

Haul together to clear up mystery

A fascinating discovery of ancient treasure has taken on another new twist, as Dave Ballinger reports

SOME of the mysteries of the Staffordshire Hoard – unearthed in a farmer's field in Hammerwich – have taken a new twist.

The incredible find, the biggest of its kind, has begun to rewrite the history books.

The entire, fully cleaned hoard has been photographed in one place for the first time since its discovery in 2009.

For two weeks the entire 4,000 piece collection has been brought together so experts could start a major exercise to group items and make links between each fragment like an ancient jigsaw puzzle.

The staggering findings shine fresh light into the depths of what are known as the Dark Ages.

Hundreds of connections have been found, revealing at least one helmet made up of more than 1,500 fragments.

Warrior

The research has also confirmed there are up to 150 swords, which represents an extraordinary haul of warrior kit.

It has also revealed for the first time the true extent of gold wealth across the kingdoms – much greater than ever envisaged before.

Anglo-Saxon specialist Chris Fern has spent 18 months examining each item in the collection individually. But to complete his analysis it became clear all the items would have to be brought together. So they were all packed up and in total secrecy experts carried out the work over two weeks in the depths of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

Mr Fern said: "The hoard is a very



Conservation manager Pieta Greaves examines some of the artefacts

complex find which points to multiple origins and is very significant for understanding the true material culture of the early kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon England.

"It suggests that the warrior elites shared in the sort of gold wealth enjoyed by kings and royalty."

Mr Fern said items in the hoard were shown to have origins from three kingdoms: Mercia, East Anglia and Northumbria.

The items span up to 150 years over the turn of the 6th and 7th centuries

the level of wealth. It now appears it was beyond kings and top royalty. More people are sharing in this. It also includes the top generals and high officials.

"It has also helped us understand the technology and techniques used. The hoard makes up something like 60 per cent of all Anglo-Saxon filigree discovered. This is unique. It is mind-boggling."

It is already believed some of the garnet discovered could have come from India and Sri Lanka.

There is also a gold pectoral cross with a central garnet gem that would have been worn by senior clergy as a sign of their office or by wealthy Christian lay people.

And there is the stylised seahorse mount with filigree spirals the size of a grain of rice which now experts believe may actually be just a horse.

Thumb

Pieta Greaves, hoard conservation manager, said: "Overall I like the pieces where you can see the human element, such as the wear on the pommel caps where you would have put your thumb."

The hoard was discovered by detectorist Terry Herbert in farmer Fred Johnson's field on July 5 2009.

It made them millionaires overnight when Birmingham Museums Trust and The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent acquired it in 2010 with support from the Arts Fund, the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the UK's largest public donation.

In 2012 a further 81 items were found in the same field. Dating of the hoard places it at the time of the huge tribal Kingdom of Mercia.

Since the discovery the treasures have toured the region and more than a million people have visited.

Mr Symons said: "It has been an incredible strength of the project that it has been out on show. We are still part way through the story and have a lot of thinking to do."

POLITICS

WITH DANIEL WAINWRIGHT

CRISIS? What crisis? Apparently Ed Miliband's cost-of-living crisis is over, if it ever existed at all.

That's the argument advanced by the Chancellor and Tory MPs as they claim 'compelling evidence' that the economic strategy is working.

Wages are growing faster than inflation, unemployment is down and house sales (not to mention prices) are up. So why the growth in food bank use then?

People who want to claim politicians are all just the same might want to look a bit more closely.

As Parliament went into recess, MPs were suggesting a very different picture of Britain's progress.

Gavin Williamson, the always friendly and cheerful MP for South Staffordshire, says 83,000 more people are in work since the Tories didn't quite come to power.

"That means 83,000 more hard-working people bringing home a regular pay packet, giving them and their family more financial security for the future," he said.

Labour has a very different view of the 'secure future' we are embarking on.

Dudley MP Ian Austin says a record 93,461 people used West Midlands food banks in the last year, including 35,425 children. He suggests 'thousands of families in the West Midlands face a cost-of-living crisis and the benefits system is in chaos'.

Those figures are from the Trussell Trust charity. And the Government thinks they might be making a rod for their own back.

An unnamed spokesman for the Department for Work and Pensions said: "Even the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development says there are fewer people struggling with their food bills compared with a few years ago, benefit processing times are improving and the Trussell Trust's own research recognises the effect their marketing activity has on the growth of their business."

It comes down to your point of view. Fewer people struggle with food bills, but food bank use has grown.


□□□□□


Wolverhampton MP Pat McCadden made some remarks in a broadcast interview this week that he wants a Labour party that 'takes wealth creation every bit as seriously as its fair distribution'. The remarks were seized upon by some of the national papers as a sign that he did not think his party leadership had a workable economic plan.

In fact the Blairite MP for Wolverhampton South East's views on this are well known. What were not picked up were his concerns over the prospect of Britain leaving the European Union. He calls the possibility the 'biggest economic threat facing the country'.


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Let's get rid of our tunnel vision

I live adjacent to the Black Country, which went from agriculture to industry in the Industrial Revolution. The whole of England was able to put in a system of railways and canals without a huge amount of inconvenience because the population and development was limited.

With a rather hazy cracked crystal ball we messed the system up by chopping or getting rid of these arteries. The replacement road arteries are now blocked or partly choked.

Can we renovate and review the whole railway system instead of building one seg-

ment which will save the world by reducing one train journey by really a few minutes?

The cost really is untold billions of pounds. We seem to be unable to get the full impact of our actions. At home we neglect basic systems.

I saw people crammed into overcrowded trains as doors were shutting. We are moving towards employing staff to shove passengers into carriages! Step back from the Alice in Wonderland hole and cure the powers that be of tunnel vision! It is not too late.

R SLIM, Halesowen

No muzzles and no muck

I AGREED with the letter writer that no dog should be muzzled unless the law demands it by its breed, or the owner knows that the dog cannot be trusted. Muzzling does cause distress.

The dog needs to be let off its lead to have a good run and exercise, then the writer totally let themselves down. It is illegal to allow dogs to foul any public place and not clean it up.

He/she says the first fall of rain will wash it away? The rain will make it stick to the pavement or grass even more. Do they allow their garden to become covered in dog mess?

If this person really does believe that allowing the dog to mess and not cleaning it up is doing the tax payer a service, they need to think again.

He/she is doing the real dog lover a real disservice.

N D CADDICK
Coseley

You must clean it up

WHILE agree with the issue of muzzling dogs in public, I absolutely do not agree on the views about cleaning up after our dogs, that kind of attitude gives dog owners a bad name.

I walk my greyhound every day and always clean up after her. I even carry extra bags so if I see someone who has either forgotten theirs, or like S McDermott, can't be bothered, I offer them one. Dog mess doesn't 'wash away the first time it rains'. Perhaps S McDermott would like to offer their garden as a dog toilet.

A LEWELLYN
Dudley

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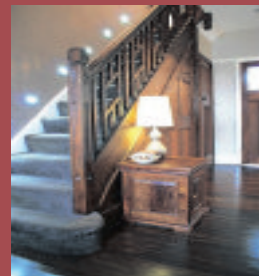
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Thank you for help in pet search

THE other Sunday morning my neighbour and I were walking our dogs on Highgate Common when quite suddenly Penny, one of mine, disappeared.

She is 16 years old and deaf so I was of course distraught. The story has a happy ending as Penny was found safe and well.

However, I am writing to thank all those who helped us in our search. In particular the couple who put her safely on a lead and walked the common looking for us and the gentleman from Wombourne who chauffeured me from car park to car park and numerous other people who helped and showed such concern. I am so grateful to them all.

Truly, there are some very kind people out there especially, dare I say it, among dog owners.

My special thanks also to my good friend and neighbour for all that she did that morning. It did not surprise me because I know I am blessed with neighbours from heaven.

S WILLIAMS
Sedgley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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@expressandstar.co.uk

Hippodrome just like a derelict car heading for scrap

THERE is in Tipton a man who many years ago acquired a top of the range Mercedes.

It was of world class and he had many happy memories of times he enjoyed in the car but it became too expensive to maintain and run and more modern vehicles had much more to offer.

It was left on the drive and became decrepit and derelict, in fact an eyesore, a shed.

One day someone offered to take it away as scrap and improve the appearance of the place.

At this point the owner, who had ignored it for years, remembered the good times

he had had and decided it should be restored.

No amount of reasoned argument could persuade him of the impossibility of such a project, where the cost could never be recovered through added value and he was prone to missing the noughts off estimates.

Everyone knew that even if it was restored it would only be used for a short while before maintenance costs and performance led to it being left on the drive and becoming an eyesore and a shed.

For Mercedes, read Dudley Hippodrome.

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Members given blind centre tour

TRYSULL & SEISDON

PRESIDENT Sue Cotterell welcomed members and visitors to the April meeting.

Linda Jackson was congratulated on coming first in the Floral Art competition at SFWI show at Lichfield.

Those that visited the Beacon Centre for the Blind had a very informative and enjoyable time.

Peter Moodie gave a tour and there was the chance to see the various crafts and activities that are available for people who are blind or partially sighted.

Peter demonstrated some of the aids that can help give them more confidence and independence. There is a hair salon, coffee shop and a café, all of which are open to the public.

Speaker was Peter Hawthorne who has written a book about the Dickin medal, the animal Victoria Cross. It was established in 1943 by Maria Dickin, the founder of the PDSA and to date 63 animals have won it.

These include Rip who was found by an ARP warden, covering in an air-raid shelter in East London during the Blitz.

One of several pigeons to win the award during the war was Winkie, who was on board a Beaufort bomber which was badly damaged and plunged into the North Sea.

Other winners include Roselle a guide dog for the blind who led her master and other people to safety after the September 2011 attacks and Simon a cat who was aboard HMS Amethyst when it was held hostage in 1949 on the Yangtze River.

Cheque is handed over to MS Centre



Christine Husbands collects the cheque from SI President Parkash

AT the February meeting of Wolverhampton Soroptimists President Parkash welcomed Regional President Edna Shafter Hughes who gave an interesting insight into her life, German connections and involvement in Soroptimist International.

In February, Parkash had visited the Multiple Sclerosis Centre, Newbridge to view the new extension and refurbishment of the building and learn of the new extra sessions they were hoping to be able to cater for, on demand.

In March following an enjoyable meal

SI WOLVERHAMPTON

at the Lindens, President Parkash invited Christine Husbands of the Multiple Sclerosis Centre to receive a cheque for £1,200 to use at the centre to improve conditions and refurbishments. The money had been collected from a number of events during the year.

The club had lengthy discussions on the 'Format for the Future', in which many interesting points were raised.

Talk given on castle's history

BLACK COUNTRY

He made a grand entrance in period costume and showed samples of chain mail, swords, protection helmets and shields and other artefacts.

He described the castle buildings for the very early days and in the 1530s the

castle was only rivalled by Hampton Court. Over the years buildings were added and the grounds were scenes of spectacular events.

Max is an entertaining speaker and makes history come to life. His talk was very well received.

On May 21 Dr Chris Upton will be the speaker.

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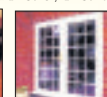
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Schools say farewell to long-serving staff

A CARETAKER and lunch-time supervisor have retired from two schools after clocking up almost 50 years between them.

Supervisor Doris Hanbury worked at Woodside Community School in Dudley for 35 years, while caretaker Mike Marsden was at Ham Dingle Primary School in Pedmore, Stourbridge, for 14 years.

Both have now served their final day to the sadness of teachers and pupils.

Children

A former Woodside Community School pupil, Mrs Hanbury returned to work at the school when her children Julie, Suzanne and Lisa started to attend.

She said: "I joined so my children had someone at home when they came back. I also shared the same school holiday. But when they left, I continued to stay because I enjoyed it and I could do it alongside working for my husband's removal business."

She added: "I will miss it, it was a big part of me."

A special assembly was held at the school in Mrs Hanbury's honour. She was also presented with cards from every class.

Headteacher Sally Bloomer said "Mrs Hanbury will be sorely missed as she never failed to provide a service with a smile, and will always hold a special place in the hearts of staff and children alike."

"We wish Mrs Hanbury a happy and healthy retirement."

Mr Marsden, aged 65, has lived on site at Ham Dingle Primary School for the past 14 years, while carrying out his caretaker duties. He is retiring and moving to a new home in Wall Heath.

As a send-off staff and pupils at the



Retiring lunchtime supervisor Doris Hasbury says goodbye at an assembly



Caretaker Mike Marsden sweeps up for the last time at Ham Dingle Primary

school presented Mr Marsden with a card and a digital camera.

The former engineer said: "I can honestly say that I have enjoyed every minute of my work at Ham Dingle. I am leaving an excellent school with fantastic staff and lovely parents and children."

"I will certainly miss the school but I'm also looking forward to a well

earned rest to put my feet up and have a quiet sing-song to myself."

Headteacher Joanne Davies said: "Mike has been a much-loved member of the Ham Dingle community since 2000 and he knows many parents and knows the names of most of the children. He will certainly be missed because of his upbeat attitude, his loud singing and joke telling."

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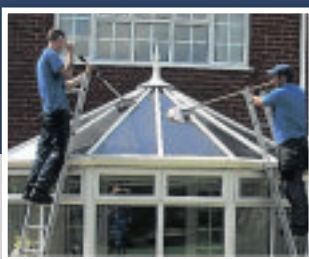
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Brian seen at the wheel of his 1936 Austin Seven with best friend Vernon Walker, in 1953



The start of the restoration in Brian Rollings garage



The 78-year-old with his pride and joy 1936 Austin Seven Opal Tourer after restoration



How the Austin looked when Brian finally found it again



Stripped back and ready for a respray in April 2012

Cherished Austin powers Brian's drive to relive his younger days

IT WAS the first car he ever bought back in 1953 and driving it 'made him feel like a king'.

Now pensioner Brian Rollings has been reunited with his beloved 1936 Austin Seven Opal Tourer – 61 years after he traded it in for a new model.

Mr Rollings bought the car when he was just 17 and spent hours polishing it and was the envy of his friends, even taking them to Weston-super-Mare in Somerset on holiday. Brian even went on his first date with his wife of 56-years Sylvia, when they first met shortly after he bought his beloved car.

But two years after buying it, he reluctantly traded the car in for a bigger Ford Popular 103E in 1955.

Brian, now 77, always regretted selling the car and after getting interested in classic car magazines, auction houses and internet sites, he finally found it in a dusty barn

MEMORY LANE by Adam Burling

18 miles away from his home in 2011. He bought the car, with a top speed of 52mph, back and has spent the last three years lovingly restoring it back to its former glory.

It now takes pride of place outside the great grandad's home in Walsall, and he has vowed never to be parted from the car again.

Brian, a retired engineer who has two grown-up sons, three grandsons and two great-granddaughters, said: "I bought the car from a greengrocer in Birmingham for £140 in 1953.

"I'd got a new job and wanted a car so put an ad in the local paper for an Austin Seven Opal, my dream car.

"A greengrocer contacted me and told me he had one so I raced over and viewed it and said I wanted it.

"I must have saved for months to find

the money and I was worried someone else would snatch it up but when I drove it home for the first time I felt like a king.

"My mates thought it was great too and we had some fantastic times heading to the coast with the top down. I sold it in 1955 after trading it in for a bigger car but I always regretted doing that. I loved the car and over the years I just wanted to get it back.

"I got into classic cars and bought a Rolls-Royce and a Mark VI Bentley convertible but I always hankered for the old 1936 Austin Seven.

"Finally I saw it advertised when I went to the Practical Classics Restoration Show at the NEC in 2011.

"I enquired about the car immediately but was devastated to learn it had been sold the day before.

"It had been off the road for 40 years in a barn in Coleshill in Warwickshire. It was rotten and covered in toy teddy bears. I didn't recognise it. But when I saw the number plate my heart jumped. I couldn't

believe I found it. I was determined not to let it slip away.

"The purchaser had agreed the deal and, even though it was painted orange and in a very grim state, I knew I could get it back to how it used to be. I collected the car the following week and started on the restoration immediately.

"I was 75 when I got the car back so I felt time was of the essence. Then on November 4, 2012, just 11 months after the project began it passed its MoT first time.

"I love driving it around now. I feel exactly like I did when I was 17."

Wife Sylvia, 77, a retired administrator, added: "I always say to people that Brian loved two things in this life, me and that Austin Seven. I remember him driving me around when we first started courting and it is lovely to go out again and relive all those wonderful memories."

More recently his motor was the star attraction at the Practical Classics Restoration Show at the NEC which was attended by tens of thousands of car fanatics.

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VAUXHALL

Cheerleaders saying thanks with pom poms

A **CHEERLEADING** group celebrated pounds with pom poms after receiving a £3,000 community grant from a bank.

Pedmore Panthers in Stourbridge were awarded the funding from Lloyds Bank earlier this year and, to say thank you in the way they know best, the black and pink clad performers brought their pom poms to showcase a routine of high jumps, back flips and synchronised dancing for staff and customers at the bank's branch on Stourbridge High Street.

Lloyds staff members Charlotte Robertson and Nicola Hartland joined the cheerleading group who performed five routines to the delight of amazed customers and staff.



Lloyds staff Charlotte Robertson and Nicola Hartland with Katie Pugh, seven



Some of the Pedmore Panthers cheerleaders in action at the bank branch

Gymnastics

With the cash injection from the bank the group have purchased new crash mats and a tumble track, which will help improve the gymnastics in the troupe's routines as they prepare to enter more competitions during this year.

The youngest of the Panthers is aged just five years old and the oldest of the group, which currently has 35 members, is aged 22.

But the group leader said age is just a number and anyone is welcome to join the cheerleading fun.

Group Leader Julie Pugh, aged 41 from Old Hill, set the group up in 2006 after she qualified as an instructor and she insisted that age is no barrier.

She said: "There is no upper age limit — if you feel fit enough to join in, you are welcome."

The mum-of-six added: "We are over the moon to have been chosen for the grant. "We were selected as one of the

Improve

The club is a family affair with four of Julia's daughters involved. Laura, aged 20 and Emma, 17, both help to

teach while Katie, seven, and Holly, four, both take part in the routines.

Looking ahead to their competitions, Julie added: "The money will go towards things that will really help us improve and it will be a great help for our competition team."

See www.pedmorepanthers.co.uk for more information.

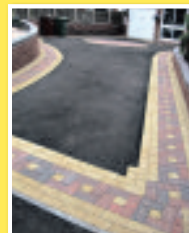
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Peppa Pig wows her young fans at Merry Hill

YOU would be forgiven for thinking it was tickets to see a boyband when 1,000 were snapped up in less than 50 minutes by people who had queued for hours.

But the source of the frenzy for free tickets was none other than popular children's TV character Peppa Pig, who made an Easter appearance at Merry Hill shopping centre.

Hundreds of excited youngsters and their parents turned out to see the popular character at the Brierley Hill centre for storytelling, games, dancing and fun.

Popular

Kelly Reed, marketing manager at the Westfield Centre said that Peppa was a top attraction.

She explained: "Peppa is such a popular character — we would have her here every day if we could."

"It is the sixth time we have had Peppa perform here and it's her 10th anniversary this week, so to celebrate she is touring her Muddy Puddles show."

One of the first in the queue were friends Emma Bowen, Emma Mallard and Kayla Brown, all from Brierley Hill, who arrived at 7.30am to get tickets for their nine-strong brood of little Peppa fans.

Mum-of-three, Emma Mallard, 28, said: "We wanted to make sure we got tickets because it is something to do with the kids and they enjoy the show on TV."

Charlie Robbins, aged four, brought along two of his favourite teddies and was delighted to get the best view sat in the front row for the show featuring Peppa and her friends from the hit television programme.

Charlie's mother Marie Robbins, 38,



Peppa's no1 fan Charlie Robbins



Young old fan Lilly Parker of Rowley Regis



Families rush in for the Peppa Pig show from Dudley Wood, said: "He is Peppa Pig mad and was so excited for today he went to bed early so today would come around faster."

Dancing

The 30 minute interactive show saw Peppa Pig read out two stories to



Peppa and co entertain the audience the wide-eyed audience before getting everyone, that's parents and children, involved in a series of singing and dancing games.

The delighted children were also given a free poster, badge and a musical toy pack as a souvenir of Peppa's show.



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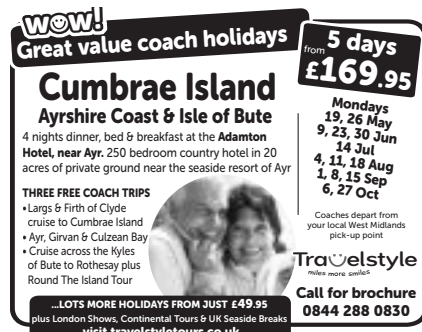
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Where no canoeist has dared to paddle before

A CANOE club has taken on one of the country's longest canal tunnels in a special day trip.

For the first time in its near 30-year history, around 20 members from the Stourbridge Arm Canoe Club have paddled through the Dudley Tunnel.

The tunnel, on the Birmingham Canal in Dudley, stretches 2,880 metres, reaches depths of around 60 metres and is pitch black in the middle. It was the first time in the tunnel for the members, who had to wear head lamps and needed to get permission from canal trust for the trip.

Andrew Gough, aged 42 from Marston Road in Dudley, joined the club with his 10-year-old son Dylan

after they went to see canoeing during the Olympics. He said: "It's one of the longest canal tunnels in the country and we are lucky that we have it and the Netherton Tunnel, which is also one of the longest, start on our doorstep.

Eerie

"It was absolutely fantastic, just having the chance to do something that you wouldn't normally do. It is quite eerie going through because there are points where you are just in total darkness."

The club meets most Saturdays until late October at Ashwood Park Activity Centre, Wordsley, and through the winter at Haden Hill Leisure Centre. Call (01384) 293122.



Phil Hancock leads members of Stourbridge Arm Canal Club through the 2,880 metre long tunnel

Fundraiser Matt hits £1.5k charity target

A FUNDRAISER putting himself through physical challenges in the year of his 40th birthday has passed his charity target of £1,500.

Father-of-one Matt Johnson, of Churchfield Drive, Rowley Regis, took on the Tough Guy challenge in Wolverhampton with fellow Sandwell Council worker Tom Davies on January 26.

The event is widely seen as the toughest assault course in the world. And now Mr Johnson, a website manager at Sandwell Council, has raised even more from running the London Marathon.

The 40-year-old is drumming up funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Matt's wife Karen died from the disease a month after giving birth to their only son at the age of 32.

He said: "I've passed my target of £1,500 and I'm now at £1,800. I'm hoping now to break the £2,000 barrier." Mr Johnson is keeping a blog about his challenges at <http://www.bigfourh.wordpress.com/>.

Operator to take over care home is revealed

A CARE home in Dudley which had been earmarked for closure by councillors will be taken over by a Halesowen housing and care provider, it has been revealed.

Campaigners fought to keep New Bradley Hall Care Home, Kingswinford, open after it was proposed to shut it. But when those plans were scrapped following public outcry, Dudley Council said it was seeking a not-for-profit group to take over.

Blackheath-based Black Country Housing Group has been named the preferred organisation following a four-month tendering process.

Bosses have pledged to invest in improvements home after council officials claimed £750,000 would need to be spent on renovations.

Technical aspects still have to be ironed out including the transfer of permanent staff who work at the Compton Drive care home.

The council will continue to run New Bradley Hall, which cares for around 30 elderly residents, until the contracts are signed and the lease is agreed.

The housing group already has care contracts with the council and operates three sheltered-housing schemes across the borough.

The council's director of adult, community and housing services, Andrea Pope-Smith, said: "Black Country Housing Group is a first class provider of care for older people, and are the ideal not-for-profit organisation to secure the future of New Bradley Hall. We have said all along that this is about keeping the home open for residents and

safeguarding jobs, and Black Country Housing Group has an excellent reputation in these fields." Black Country Housing Group chief executive Amanda Tomlinson, added: "We are delighted to be able to work in partnership with Dudley Council to ensure the long-term future of this important facility for residents and staff."

"With our strong track record for providing high-quality domiciliary care to people in Dudley, aligned with our commitment to invest in New Bradley hall, we are well placed to operate a first class residential home which meets the needs of residents."

Members of New Bradley Hall Action group were cautious about the announcement and said they would be seeking further details on the deal Campaign leader Mac Scott said: "All we wanted was for the home to stay under local authority control."

Adult services boss, Councillor Dave Branwood, moved to allay fears saying: "They have a lot of experience in the care field."

"They will also inherit the staff within the care home. Some of the staff have a wealth of experience."

MP critical of cuts to environmental fund

A DUDLEY MP has spoken out against plans to cut £7.1 million from an environmental fund which has benefited projects in the Midlands.

The Government is proposing to slash the Landfill Communities Fund which compensates local communities affected by landfill activity. The fund has previously supported projects in Dudley including the restoration of Ruiton Windmill, Gornal and improvements to Priory Park.

Now Dudley North MP Ian Austin has tabled Parliamentary Questions and written to the Chancellor to raise concerns about how the funding cut will affect communities. Mr Austin said: "By choosing to slash £7.1 million from this pot of funding the government has proved yet again that investment in our area just isn't a priority."

"Projects like the improvements to Priory Park just couldn't have happened without this funding, so I'm raising my concerns with George Osborne."

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**Focus on
Cradley Heath
and Cradley**

Volunteer appeal for cash drive

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to help with a big charity drive for Diabetes UK in Cradley Heath.

Organisers of the charity's Big Collection weekend are looking for a team leader to co-ordinate the event.

It will take place in all participating Tesco stores on June 13, 14 and 15 June 2014.

The aim is to raise hundreds of thousands of pounds for Diabetes UK, as part of the major national charity partnership between the two organisations, which aims to make life better for those with the condition or at high risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

Anyone interested in volunteering as a team leader for the Big Collection can contact Roy Bustin on 01922 614500 or email midlands@diabetes.org.uk

Pete Shorrick, Diabetes UK Regional Manager for the Midlands, said: "We are looking for motivated, approachable and organised Team Leader Volunteers, with a desire to help raise lots of money for a fantastic cause."

"The weekend takes place at the end of Diabetes Week and it is a great way to inform customers about diabetes while raising money for Diabetes UK."

Children centres given good rating by Ofsted

FIVE children centres, including one in Cradley Heath, have been given an overall good rating by Ofsted inspectors, who said they had a programme of activities.

The Rowley Springfield, Rowley Hall, Cradley Heath and Old Hill, and Tividale centres, which are all in Sandwell, were said to have activities that "meet families' needs well."

The report published by Ofsted also states that parents value the "warm and friendly" environment at the centres and appreciate the "very good" care and support which they get from leaders and staff.

Inspectors also praised staff at the Health for Living-managed children's centres, stating that they are "well qualified and work well together as a team."

Director Anna Gillespie said: "Our aim is to improve the lives of children and families who use the centres, be it through hosting baby massage classes or cook-well sessions, which show parents how to prepare healthy meals."

She added: "This inspection result is testament to the hard work and commitment of staff at the centres and we are pleased with the outcome. We recognise that there are areas that we want to do even better in and we are working hard to ensure we do this."

Paula Ralph, cluster man-

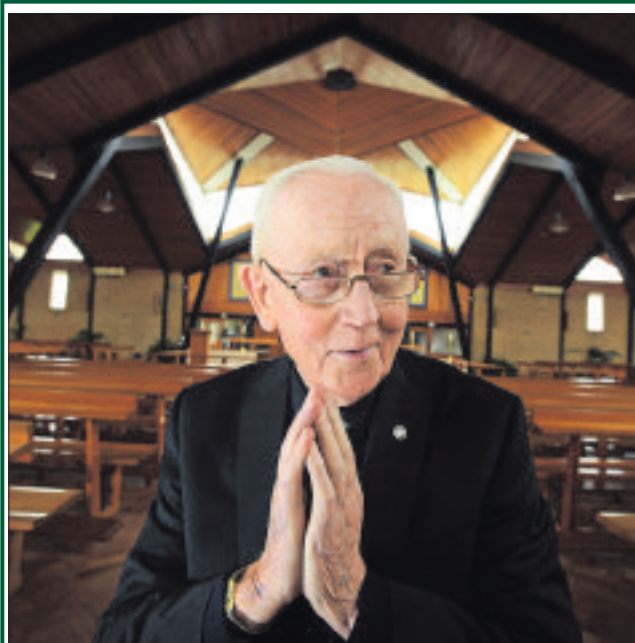
By Heather Large

ager for the children's centres, said: "We are really pleased with the result of the inspection, it really is a reflection of the hard work that our staff do day-in, day-out at the children's centres."

The children's centres that were inspected are managed by Health for Living, a partnership between the Accord Group, Black Country Housing Group, Murray Hall Community Trust and The Kaleidoscope Plus Group.

The centres provide a range of services for children and families, from play and stays and play-groups to family health clinics and work clubs.

Health for Living runs a confidence and well-being service that has classes and sessions across Sandwell to help people improve their confidence, handle long-term health conditions and improve health and well-being.



Britain's oldest serving priest Father Timothy Burke, aged 90, at Holy Cross church

Priest still serving at age of 90

A FORMER priest in Cradley Heath has performed thousands of baptisms, hundreds of weddings, welcomed seven new popes - and was once even a dab hand at the Irish sport of hurling.

At 90 years old, Father Timothy Burke is the UK's oldest serving member of the Catholic Church.

The parish priest for Stone Cross, West Bromwich, has been serving the people of the West Midlands for more than 70 years.

And while most people his age are enjoying a slower pace of life, he is still working hard seven days a week carrying out five masses.

He also serves as the chairman of the governors at John Bosco Catholic Primary School in Monmouth Drive, West Bromwich. "I hope to still be here when I am 100 so I can get myself in the Guinness World Book of Records for being the oldest priest alive," he said.

Ex-pub to go under the hammer

THE former Five Ways pub in High Street, Cradley Heath, is up for auction.

It is in the CP Bigwood auction in the Holte Suite at Villa Park on May 1 from 11am.

The old pub has been converted into a retail/showroom area on the ground floor and five flats on the first and second floors is also among the lots for £200,000 to £225,000.

The Golden Cue Snooker Club, in Station Road, Rowley Regis, is also up for sale with a guide price of £295,000. It has 16 full sized tables.

The former Haven Hotel in Claremont Street, Bilston, has a price of £200,000 to £227,000 and Sampson Lloyd, Cape Hill, Smethwick, a former Lloyds Bank chambers, recently converted into a bar and restaurant.

Its guide price is £235,000 to £240,000.

Rogue trader who ran away

POLICE have been cracking down on rogue traders in Cradley Heath.

A day of action was carried out at hotspots across Sandwell including Cradley Heath and Great Barr.

Eleven of 12 traders spoken to were genuine but one ran away before his credentials could be verified.

Officers visited more than 200 households to offer advice and.

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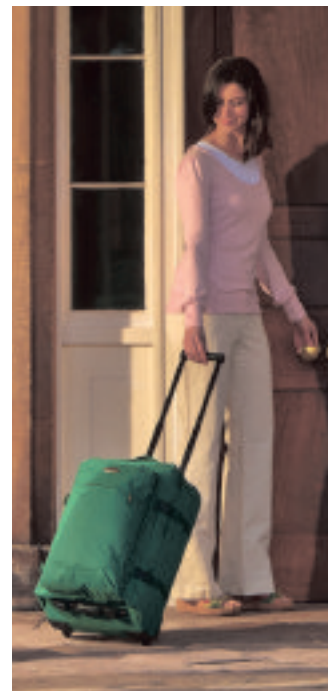
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Bullies jailed for brutal attack on vulnerable man

FOUR thugs who subjected a man with learning difficulties to a 'sustained, bullying and brutal' assault have been locked up.

The gang beat the 23-year-old in his own home in Dudley. He had believed some of them were his friends.

They stripped him to his underpants and submerging him in a bath.

The victim also had two puncture wounds to his legs, believed to have been caused by a knife.

Each of the four were handed 42-month sentences at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Wounding

Adam Dudley, aged 20 from Himley Road, Benjamin Fields, 24 from Wellington Road, and 19-year-old Connor Green, from Salop Street, all Dudley, along with Stephen Loveridge, 20, of no fixed address, were all found guilty of unlawful wounding after a trial.

Sentencing them, Judge Martin Walsh said: "He was subjected to a sustained, bullying and brutal assault. "He was stripped down to his underpants and submerged in his bath. "He was beaten over a period of time."

Despite the beating, the injuries were not extensive with bruising to an eye and to his back, as well as the leg wounds.

But Judge Walsh added: "It's likely the incident lasted for between two to three hours."

"It's clear to me he had been terrified by the ordeal that had taken place."

Defending Fields, Mr Harry Lally said he had been 'high' on class A drugs at the time of the incident.

In Green's defence, barrister Miss Kate Thomas said he had been 'largely cast adrift' at the age of 16 after his



Connor Green, aged 19



Stephen Loveridge, aged 20



Adam Dudley, aged 20



Benjamin Fields, aged 24

mother had died. Loveridge's barrister Mr Jasvir Mann said he had also been taking drugs that night.

He added: "He's a young man who's had a fairly disorganised life, he's really had no goals in life, he's drifted from one situation to the other."

On behalf of Dudley, Mr Jason Patel said he had 'expressed motivation to

change'. He said: "He's soon to be 21 and will move to an adult establishment and he is apprehensive of that."

Afterwards, investigating officer Detective Constable Dan Bailey said the defendants deserved to be in custody, adding: "They are bullies at the end of the day."

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Plan to ban drunken yobs from all pubs in the area

A PUB watch scheme to combat booze-fuel crime has been launched in Kingswinford and Wordsley. Licensees and managers will be on the lookout for troublemakers.

Landlords and will be in regular contact with the police. They will be able to warn each other about potential problems caused by rowdy revellers making their way around the nightspots in the town.

They are joining Dudley Council, the police and the business crime partnership to tackle abusive customers. Members will be able to decide whether to ban troublemakers from all of their pubs.

It follows similar schemes in Stourbridge and Dudley town centres.

The landlords are trialling a radio system where they can instantly warn other members about hostile customers.

John Polychronakis, chief executive of Dudley Council and chairman of local crime and disorder partnership Safe & Sound, said: "Everyone should be allowed to socialise in peace and we fully support any business in the

By Heather Large

borough which aims to reduce anti-social behaviour.

"Pub landlords will be looking out for unacceptable behaviour.

"This could be assaults, thefts or drug related.

"People who commit these offences will then be banned from all of the members of the PubWatch.

"I hope that this sends out a strong message to troublemakers that disorder will not be tolerated."

Licensing officer for Dudley police, Katie Turley, said: "Whilst Kingswinford and Wordsley does not suffer from excessive numbers of alcohol-related incidents, we are determined to ensure that the numbers of crimes remain low.

Charity shop celebrates 25th anniversary



Eileen Manning pictured in the middle with other volunteers and staff at the British Heart Foundation shop

A CHARITY shop is celebrating a milestone anniversary by rewarding volunteers who have made it possible.

The British Heart Foundation opened its store on Stourbridge High Street 25 years ago and has recognised the dedication of its team of long serving volunteers.

The shop opened on April 21, 1989, and was one of the first stores to be opened by the charity which was set up in 1961 and now has more than 700 stores nationwide.

To mark the quarter of a century birthday, store manager Angela Harrison organised a party for the volunteers at which they received an award in recognition of their hard work.

Store manager Angela Harrison, who has worked at the shop for eight years, said: "We have a party each year for our volunteers but this one is a very special milestone."

Top of the list of awards was Eileen Manning, 76, who started at the shop on the day it opened.

Mrs Manning from Pedmore, was awarded for her 25 years service and said the charity means a great deal to her, after her husband suffered a heart attack.

She said: "My husband had a heart attack and a year later had a quadruple bypass and he is still here today.

"The charity is very close to my heart so I volunteer every Monday.

"I do a bit of everything, sorting through donations and hanging and steaming clothes.

Spy in the shed move to catch criminals

HOUSEHOLD gadgets are being used to fight crime by police in a blitz on burglars.

Lawnmowers, hedge trimmers and power cleaners have been fitted with tiny cameras and satellite data trackers to be tracked and help catch criminals.

The force already use so called 'capture' houses and cars packed with the technology in a bid to trick burglars.

But now officers are tooling up the ordinary garden shed with this equipment too in a bid to tackle shed raiders.

The kit, which uses tiny CCTV cameras and satellite data to track stolen goods, was unveiled to shoppers at Stourbridge's Ryemarket shopping centre.

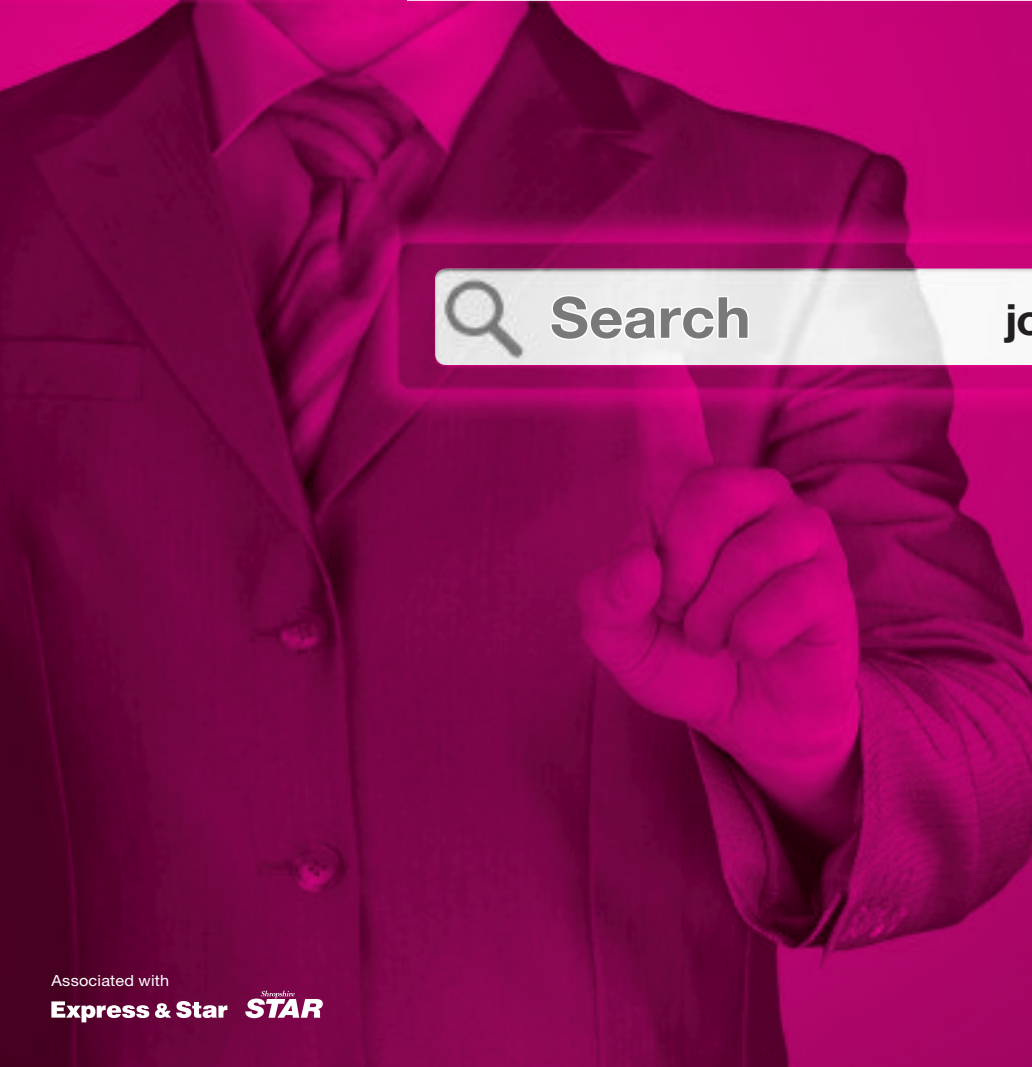
Detective Sergeant Matt Morgan, from Dudley's CID, said: "We have been using capture technology across the borough since 2012 and have had numerous successes in identifying and tracking down offenders.


"We're now seeing record lows in burglary across Dudley with such crimes being driven down from highs of 2,371 in 2002/13 to 837 in 2013/14.


"We know that capture technology is one of the things criminals fear most."

Circus rolls in

THE circus has rolled into town. The Big Top will be at Webbs Garden Centre in Kidderminster Road South, West Hagley, until Sunday.




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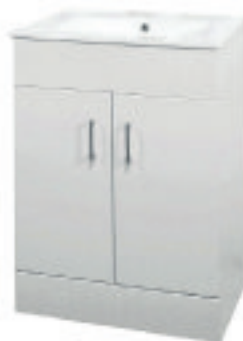
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Women seeking men

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WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745

JEAN young at heart lady, active, 70 plus, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, gardening, outings, WLTm sincere, caring male, 69-74 for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411711

SARAH, married lady seeks discreet no strings fun with gent. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box 408291

TINA sexy black female looking for healthy distractions with fun adult companion, interested? You won't be disappointed, give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411519

LYNNE young looking attractive Indian female with GSOH and down to earth attitude, looking for likeminded male for date nights, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411219

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 410127

EMMIE 50, attractive brunette, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading, seeks genuine, friendly, professional male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411281

RETIREd happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459

NINA, black beauty, looking for discreet adult times with man any age. Tel: 0905 002 1957 Box 409901

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life, any age, to get to know and see what happens, you only live once remember! 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959

SUE 34, likes most things in life, even football! Looking for my Mr Wonderful thought I would give this a try. Come on what do we have to loose, call me. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410765

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 408297

CAROL slim attractive blonde, sporty, easy going, broadminded looking for likeminded male with plenty of va va voom, 35-45. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409717

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411329

28YR old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639

SUE 38, attractive broadminded attentive, enjoys meals in/out etc, not necessarily looking for Mr Right as Mr Wrong or even Mr Right now could be fun! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411049

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for a lovely spontaneous guy who like me just wants good company and a nice relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410641

KATHERINE 35yr old outgoing single female looking to enjoy dates with similar male also looking for fun times in or out. Age, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410565

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tlc to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949

ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637

29YR old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship. Pls no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410577

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeks lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTm tall professional for romance dates and hopeful tr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415

TAYLOR 21 black beautiful classy intelligent, loves to have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409911

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499

73YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331

NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible tr. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTm for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395

ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open, looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 56s, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408955

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, likes socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409733

MARGARET OHAC, professional, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTm caring male with similar refined tastes. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925

ATTRACTIVE 49yr old divorced lady looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409955

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ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151

NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, has lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101

Hi I'm Jo, first time, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409089

SUSIE 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408877

BABS 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar single male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859

JOANNA 34, in need of tlc, winning, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408869

MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733

KIM attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489

TAYLOR attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311

BETHANY 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253

KIRSTY blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTm broadminded male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409259

KATH blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407955

TRACY slim dark haired beauty, petite, hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTm loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409419

SHARON very attractive British black lady, sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in love with. Beautiful people can be lonely too. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409265

MILD naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

ANITA very attractive black female seeking mature white/Asian man to enjoy uncomplicated relationship with no ties. Any age, pls contact me, I'm very lonely. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408505

Hi I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopeful tr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933

FEMALE many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408537

MIXED raced lady 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429

68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413

JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408285

CHRIS blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible tr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407615

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

CAROL 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401853

RETIRED lady, seeks gent for friendship and outings, holidays etc. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392336

SUE attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTm someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407021

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407603

SLIM active lady, 60's, N/S, seeks honest, kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407693

ANNABELLA board attractive 30 something nurse wanting healing hands for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407449



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SUE 40's female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407019

NICKY loving caring gorgeous fun young lady who loves swimming, dancing and lots more, seeking male for text chats and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407459

BLACK female, 45, seeking older gent, 60 plus who knows how to look after a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407787

PAM 71, feels younger, lots to give, socialising, theatre, country walks, charity work, seeking male to share interests with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407851

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim, size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651

MANDY divorced independent 46yr old single mum, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407469

NICKY 26 fun single female who has been on her own far too long desperately seeking her Prince Charming, must be tactile and possess the ability to fall in love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407485

MICHELLE lonely singleton, fit/slender, passionate, easy-going seeks male to cook for and generally spoil rotten in exchange for great companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407501

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

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MALE 74, fit, N/S, OHAC, seeks slim lady of similar age for days out, holidays and walks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411673

TALL mature male, seeks younger, attractive mixed race lady for spoiling and pampering. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411505

KEV 53, Stoke, seeking female for fun, romance, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410997

PHIL genuine male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411461

DEE 49, divorced, handsome, fit, slim, seeks lady, any age for lasting, meaningful relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411415

MARK 5ft 11ins, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, athletic, likes nights in/out, socialising, meals out, pubs, seeks female with similar interests and GSOH for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411335

SLIM attractive Asian male, GSOH, seeks likeminded discreet female for adult friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411305

MALE 67, seeking lady 30-50 for friendship/companionship and occasional days/nights out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411293

INTELLIGENT sincere Shropshire male, slim, young 60's, playfully assertive, seeking complimentary, responsive, feminine lady, 50-60's who enjoys music, books, the arts and countryside. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411285

EASY going male 45, likes sports, seeks female for relationship. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411541

5FT 6ins male, dark hair/eyes, glasses, likes meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411455

IAN 47, 5ft 11ins, likes cinema, nights in/out, sports, socialising, GSOH seeking similar female. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411297

ATTRACTIVE male, seeks 100% adult fun with woman, any age/looks or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411253

MALE WLTm pear shaped lady, 50-65. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411109

PAUL 62, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411099

TRUSTWORTHY fit, active, caring, easy going male, N/S, 68, GSOH, seeks genuine lady, 59-72 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411083

TOM 31, seeking female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411165

ADVENTUROUS 32yr old slim, dark haired, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753

60YR old male, 5ft 11ins, WLTm female, 40-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411097

STEVE 63, tall, fit, energetic, N/S, seeks lady, 55-60 for friendship and who knows. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410941

SEAN 46, brown hair/eyes, average looks/build, loving, caring, understanding, seeks female to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410845

PAUL 62, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410799

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional male, broadminded, adventurous, clean, discreet, GSOH, easy going, good company, looking for lady for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411019

JEFF 35, GSOH, likes cinema, swimming, ice skating, seeks special female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410737

CHRIS 32, 5ft 10ins, brown hair, blue eyes, open minded, looking for female for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410643

BROADMINDED professional, tall, dark male, easy going, GSOH, seeking female with GSOH for fun, friendship and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410703

PAUL 68, 5ft 7ins, fit, genuine, enjoys most things, likes a laugh, seeking similar female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410655

SLIM attractive man, tired of lonely nights, seeks genuine lady for friendship and evenings out. Tel No: 0906

Sparkling couple celebrate reaching their diamond day

BE kind, helpful and thoughtful to one another, that's the advice from a Netherton couple who have celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss.

Ken and Joyce Gennard, of Mous-esweet Close, reached their diamond wedding anniversary on April 17.

They met when they were sweet 16 but Ken remembers it as just a 'passing acquaintance' before he left at 18 to serve in the RAF. After two years in service Ken, now 84, returned in 1950 and the couple met again at a pub in Cradley Heath.

Mr Gennard said: "We met at a social gathering, our friendship blossomed and we started courting."

The couple married on Easter Saturday at St Andrew's Church, Netherton, and they held their re-

ception in Brierley Hill. Mrs Gennard, now 83, wore a full length white wedding gown.

Mr Gennard said: "More than 100 people came to the church. We had lovely weather, it was so warm the guests were sat outside by the bowling green."

The couple didn't have a honeymoon and lived with Ken's parents for several years before they moved in to their first home and have lived at their Netherton address for 45 years. They have two children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Asked the secret to a long marriage Mr Gennard said to learn to be happy and not focus on what you don't have.



Diamond couple Ken and Joyce Gennard, of Netherton, celebrate 60 years of marriage

Music to highlight region's diversity

A FREE community event to celebrate the region's cultural diversity will take place in Dudley on Saturday.

Musicians from different genres will play from 2pm on two stages at the Town Hall. There will be free family entertainment, from face painting to wall climbing.

Youth acts from Sandwell Rocks will perform, together with other up-and-coming acts from across the region. More established acts will be playing during the evening.

From rock to soul artists, indie bands, folk singers and rappers, live music from all backgrounds will be performed to enjoy. Among the groups taking part is Halesowen indie band Seven Day Weekend.

Headlining the main stage will be Roach Killa, an award-winning Punjabi rapper. Folk singer Grace Petrie, who has performed for Love Music Hate Racism in Stourbridge, said: "Enjoying music together shows the racists that we will not be divided."

Love Music Hate Racism, has been organised by local trade unionists, anti-racists and councillors.

Car park and store plan makes progress

A SUPERMARKET and a 91-space car park planned for Gornal has 'cleared its first hurdle' with the announcement that three firms are interested in taking on the site.

The development was suggested last year and is proposed for land in Zoar Street, between Red Hall Primary School and Zoar Church. Talks have been continuing between owners and other parties, including Dudley Council.

by Lee Watton

Ian Cole, of CH Properties, which owns the land, said these were now nearing a conclusion.

This would pave the way for full plans to be submitted to the council.

These are expected to be put forward in around two months.

They will then be discussed by members of the authority's development control committee later this year.

Mr Cole said: "We are now just waiting for some final solicitors' letters to be signed and we will be able to progress."

"These things do take time but now the scheme has cleared its first hurdle things should be happening more quickly."

Concern

"We plan to have the proposals submitted in the next couple of months and hopefully get the approval we need."

"Gornal desperately needs a new car park and a new supermarket will bring competition to the village."

Some residents have been concerned about the level of interest from companies taking on the supermarket once it is built.

But Mr Cole said: "There

has been quite a bit of interest in the development and at the moment there are three groups considering taking it on."

"There is still some way to go yet but things are progressing."

It is believed chemists Eggintons will become part of the development.

A plot of land to the rear of Zoar Street would also be used for the supermarket and car park.

Residents have long been campaigning for better parking in the village as the limited number of existing spaces are full most of the day.

But while the new car park has been supported, the supermarket part of the scheme has split opinion.

There are some concerns it will lead to increased traffic using Church Street, Temple Street and Zoar Street.

Residents have said the route is already congested.

The number of vehicles along the route rises during the morning and afternoon as parents drop off and collect their youngsters from Red Hall Primary School.

Others are concerned it will drive existing traders out of business.

Chance to have your say on closure plan

A PUBLIC meeting is being held to give users of a mental health support service earmarked for closure the chance to air their views.

Dove House is in the grounds of Dudley's Bushey Fields Hospital and is staffed and supported by independent mental health charity Dudley Mind.

The centre provides a range of day activities and also serves as a meeting place. But charity bosses want to shut the service from mid-May and replace it with drop-in facilities at other locations such as community centres.

The building, in Bushey Fields Road, on the Russells Hall estate, will be taken over for use by inpatients from the mental hospital's wards during the run-up to leaving hospital.

The meeting is on April 30 at Dove House from 2.30pm to 5pm. To book a place email clare.hamilton@dudleyccg.nhs.uk or ring Clare on: 01384 321764



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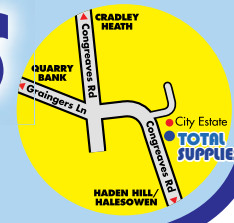


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Monet's Garden and Paris

Four days departing June 27, August 8 and September 19



Monet's house itself has been restored to its original beauty with an attractive pink façade and now contains reproductions of his work. In the gardens, which have been re-planted to his design, there is his studio and lily pond, the subject of many of his paintings.

A transfer into Paris for a full day at leisure or the chance to join an optional excursion to Fontainebleau and Barbizon are also part of the itinerary.

Other optional excursions offered include an evening in the fascinating artist's quarter of Montmartre, and a Latin Quarter with evening river cruise on the Seine giving a full commentary on all the major sights.



PRICE FROM **£179.⁵⁰**

Visits to the Normandy village of Giverny and former home of the Impressionist Claude Monet, are the highlights of this French break.

The small village of Giverny was home and inspiration for over 40 years to Claude Monet, perhaps the most famous of the French Impressionists.

Whilst there, maybe visit one of the many galleries, studios or shops or take a walk to the pretty little church of Giverny, built mostly in the 15th and 16th centuries. Its the church that Monet attended and where he and his family are buried.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit to Giverny including admission to Monet's house and gardens
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)



The Battlefields of World War One

Four days departing September 26



PRICE FROM **£209**

- Return coach travel and Channel crossings
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Full programme sightseeing the Somme and Ypres Salient
- Entrance to the Historial de la Grande Guerre museum
- Entrance to the In Flanders Field museum
- Visit to the Menin Gate
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Classical Spain

Seven days various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£569**

- Return flights
- Six nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided tours of Seville and the Alhambra Palace in Granada
- Visits to Cordoba and Ronda
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

The Amalfi Coast

Eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£689**

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Full-day tour to Sorrento and along the Amalfi Coast
- Full day visit to Paestum and Salerno
- Local wine and soft drinks with dinner, daily tea and biscuits, free use of tennis courts and sunbeds
- Two optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Moselle Valley by Eurostar

Six days various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£529**

- Return standard class Eurostar
- Five nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Aachen, Koblenz, Cochem, Trier and Bernkastel
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744)

Wimbledon

Two days departing July 5 and 6



PRICE FROM **£139**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Full day at Wimbledon with a reserved seat on No.1 Court to see the finals of the Junior and Veteran events
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Chatsworth House and the Peak District

Two days departing July 20



PRICE FROM **£89.⁹⁵**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Chatsworth House and gardens
- Tour of the Peak District
- Evening entertainment
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Emmerdale and the Best of Yorkshire

Three days departing June 27, September 19



PRICE FROM **£139**

- Return coach travel
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Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

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- Free time in London
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Longleat Safari and Adventure Park

Two days departing June 13 and October 11



PRICE FROM **£119***

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Day ticket to Longleat Safari and Adventure Park
- Visit to Bath
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

*Child price from £109 - conditions apply

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Narrowboats and Steam

Three days departing September 5



PRICE FROM **£199.⁹⁵**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Ride on the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway
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- Time in Skipton and Bowness
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Short Breaks (ABTA Y5914)

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Rail and Steam

Four days departing August 1



PRICE FROM **£299**

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- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Two three-course evening meals
- Ticket for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- Return journey on the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway
- Circular Cruise on the SS Sir Walter Scott
- Visits to Edinburgh, Aberfoyle and Gretna Green
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)



Been away too long – and it really did show

Frank Skinner, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
HE'S been away from stand-up for six or seven years, and at times it was evident, sadly, Black Country comic Skinner was given a rousing welcome in his return to both the stage and to the region.

Football banter immediately ensued with the Albion fan even congratulating Wolves on their return to the Championship.

His own team didn't escape, however, as he quipped that his show was 94 minutes long and the reason why. "It starts off well until the very last minute when it's no good – like Pepe Mel!"

These days, Skinner's a changed man, and it showed. He dresses up on stage for

"The Man In A Suit" tour and, now that he's grown up and more mature, claims to be more sophisticated.

Tales of shopping in Fortnum & Mason and living by London's South Bank would have hardly endeared himself to the masses. It was hit and miss through

ut and there was plenty of audience interaction.

Skinner's use of haiku poetry was very clever.

But it was when he reverted to his laddish, uncouth persona that we all know and love that the gig picked up.

The routine including stories of rows with his partner and dating, but some, like jokes about Stuart Hall and Shakin Stevens, were a little below the belt.

MARK SHIPP



Sparkly dress and another sparkling performance by Torvill and Dean

Golden Ray shines at stunning ice farewell

Dancing On Ice The Final Tour, Birmingham NIA

WELL the mighty Quinn has done it again! The TV champion of champions wowed the audience during the Dancing On Ice Final Tour opening night at Birmingham's NIA and waltzed away with the trophy.

This cool customer Ray Quinn proved more than once that nothing is too much for this master of the ice. The judges, Robin Cousins, Karen Barber and Nicky Slater were as overawed as the packed NIA.

This tour has proved very popular but is the end of an ice skating era. No more being glued to televisions on Sunday night and waiting for the tour to bring the stars to a city near you. This may be the end but what a way to go out on Bolero's 30th anniversary as Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean again showed why they have reigned as the king and queen of ice for so long.

As the show started there was a warning of fireworks and it soon became clear it was going to be explosive night. The first dance By Torvill and Dean was to The Best Is Yet To Come and they were quite right.

The celebrities – Kyran Bracken, Gareth Gates, Bonnie Langford, Joe Pasquale, Suzanne Shaw, Hayley Tamaddon, Beth Tweddle and of course Ray – danced for the

Reviews

votes in the first half and the atmosphere was electric with perfect 10s for Kyran and Ray. But after the public vote it was Ray who came out tops with Hayley close on his heels and Kyran third. Over nine years the text votes have raised £150,000 for charity.

Two giant screens took us on a journey with Torvill and Dean as they talked of how they got into skating and the thrill of the gold medal at the 1984 Winter Olympics.

Competition over, it was time for the thrills and fun. The thrills came from the professional dancers with their daring routines. Then Joe was back on the ice to give us all a 'beginner's skating lesson'. After claiming it was easier for the women skaters as they did not have to do the lifts he promptly stripped off to reveal a skimpy pink sparkly dress and persuaded a very reluctant professional male dancer to accompany him.

Of course the finale was left for Torvill and Dean to perform once again their stunning Bolero routine which brought the crowd to their feet. The Final tour but what a way to go out!

SUE ATTWATER

Gamers will fall for this titanic title

Leon Burakowski reviews the latest crop of video games, including Titanfall

TITANFALL (EA, 16) is going to be one of the biggest gaming hits of the year. The futuristic shooter delivers fast-moving thrills but is for online gamers with an Xbox Live subscription.

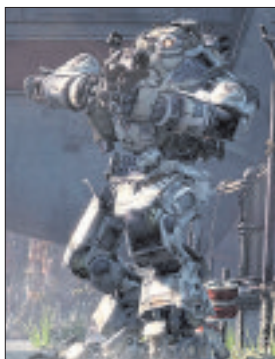
I reviewed on Xbox 360 and the dedicated servers seem to be doing a good job of matching up players to enter the online battles. Respawn Entertainment have created a no-nonsense game that borrows elements from the Call of Duty franchise (some of the same developers), blockbuster sci-fi movie Pacific Rim, a little of the look of Halo and some ideas from cult game Section 8.

A training programme, in which you learn to run along walls and nifty battle moves, is over in a few minutes and then you are ready to enter the fray.

You can choose campaign or classic mode, and the latter has various mission objectives but it's best to start with Attrition in which you face your enemy on one of several worlds involved in the human civil war between the IMC and rebels called The Militia.

You literally jump into the action as a heavily armed soldier but things get really interesting when you can call down your Titan. These are a combination of high-tech suit of armour and a walking tank, including the seriously chunky Ogre.

There is something rather satisfying about seeing your Titan making its spectacular landing and then clambering aboard to get your own back on



Watch out here comes a Titan



The LEGO version of Thorin Oakenshield

those grunts that were harassing you a few moments before. Of course, things get a little tricky when you have to take on the enemy Titans.

The only gripe is that the environments are little more than backgrounds but that is perhaps due to the makers' emphasis on action above all else.

Titanfall delivers the thrills for those looking for the next generation of high adrenaline action.

Dark Souls II (Namco Bandai, 16) is more a perfected version of the original fantasy than a true sequel. It has an atmospheric soundtrack and the theme of a damned wanderer in a ruined kingdom has the feel of a gloomier Skyrim or Fable.

The graphics, as seen on Xbox 360, are an odd mix, sometimes superb and other times looking like a much older game. Despite online co-op available, it is more for those who prefer to quest alone with some formidable boss villains to overcome.

A favourite fantasy gets that blocky,

quirky comedy treatment in **LEGO The Hobbit** (WB Games, 7) with Bilbo, Gandalf the wizard, dwarves and dragon in an expansive LEGO-fication of Middle Earth.

An old classic returns with several of its sequels in Namco Bandai's **Pac-Man Museum** (3), downloadable from Xbox Live Arcade.

The original version of the little yellow muncher is still the best and, coin-op nostalgia apart, remains addictive. There is also fun to be had with the strange neon acid house-like Championship Edition and Pac-Man turning cannibal in Battle Royal.

Pac-Man and the Ghostly Adventures (Namco, 7) wakka-wakkas the familiar yellow ball into a 3D environment in a downloadable platform game for the Nintendo 3DS. It's decent update for the character, drawn from the latest children's cartoon spin-off but is nothing special, and I think this video game veteran deserves better.

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Puppet show is for adults only

AWARD-WINNING puppet comedy musical Avenue Q will be visiting Birmingham.

A hit on Broadway and the West End, the adult comedy will be visiting the New Alexandra Theatre from September 16 to 20.

With naughty puppets brought to life by an ensemble cast of 11 performers, Avenue Q is a Tony Award-winning musical that first opened at New York's off-Broadway Vineyard Theatre in 2003, before transferring to Broadway later that year where it won three Tonys for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book.

In 2006 it opened in the West End, where it ran for five years before touring.

More good news for Russell's fans

DUE to huge demand comedian Russell Howard has extended his sold-out arena tour into the autumn including an extra date in Birmingham.

The star of TV show Russell Howard's Good News will be returning to the LG Arena on December 21. Tickets are priced £31.50.

Comedy over the next week includes Wulfrun Hall shows for Josh Widdicombe tonight and Paul Chowdhry next Thursday. Jack Dee and the I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue radio show crew are at Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday for two performances... with the lovely Samantha?

Paolo getting his new shoes ready as tour visits the Civic

Singing Sister Tasheka

TASHEKA Coe made it to the final 20 out of 9,000 aiming to become Andrew Lloyd Webber's next West End star in TV show Over The Rainbow.

Tasheka didn't get to walk down the Yellow Brick Road to star as Dorothy at the London Palladium but she is preparing for the lead role of Deloris Van Cartier in West Bromwich Operatic Society's production of Sister Act at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next month.

The soul stirring comedy musical about a streetwise singer finding sanctuary from a gangster with an order of nuns was a hit movie in the 1990s with Whoopi Goldberg in the lead role. It later became a popular Broadway and West End show. The WBOS production of Sister Act will be at the Grand from May 13 to 17. For tickets call 01902 429212.



Tasheka Coe is starring in West Bromwich Operatic Society's production of Sister Act

IT has been a long wait but Scottish singer-songwriter Paolo Nutini is back with an acclaimed new album and a tour including a sold out concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Friday, May 30.

The 27-year-old from Paisley, where his parents ran a fish and chip shop, made an instant impact in 2006 with his debut album These Streets, including the hits Last Request and New Shoes, and released his second, Sunny Side Up, three years later yielding the hits Pencil Full of Lead and 10/10.

Olympic

Since then not a lot of has been heard of the soulful singer, besides his singing appearance at the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games, because Paolo has been on global travels "seeking adventure".

Now he is back with his Caustic Love album, including the single Scream (Funk My Life Up), which has won rave reviews.

Pick of the gigs over the forthcoming week include the return of Neil Finn, the former frontman of New Zealand bands Crowded House and Split Enz bringing his solo show to Birmingham Symphony Hall on Monday (£35).

Three time Grammy Award winner Ben Harper brings his Weissenborn



Civic gig — Paolo Nutini

guitar to the Symphony Hall on Tuesday (£32.50). Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson previews his new solo album at the same venue on May 1 (£30/£35).

Blues rocker Larry Miller is at Bilston's Robin 2 tonight (£12 or £14 on the door), and the Mount Pleasant venue then hosts rising folk/pop band The Moulettes on Wednesday, April 30 (£8 or £10 on the door) with support from Scottish folk musician Kate Young.

So good that it is going wrong

AN awful whodunnit goes badly wrong to much comic effect in highly-rated new farce The Play That Goes Wrong, which is staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, May 3.

The cosmic boogie of glam rock star Marc Bolan and his band T Rex is celebrated in new musical 20th Century Boy at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre Monday to Saturday.

The Birmingham International Dance Festival continues at Birmingham Hippodrome with the powerful Sideways Rain danced by the 14-strong Alias on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Masked theatre company Vamos bring Finding Joy to Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre tonight.

Rick's classical concept concert

A PROGRESSIVE rock landmark is revived on Tuesday when keyboard wizard Rick Wakeman celebrates the 40th anniversary of his classical-rock concept album Journey To The Centre Of The Earth, at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham.

Based on the science fiction novel by Jules Verne, the former Yes star will be teaming up with an orchestra for a new production of the show first performed at London's Royal Festival Hall in 1974. It will feature visuals by famed Yes album sleeve designer Roger Dean. Tickets cost £46.50 or £52.

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CHOICE



Tom Schilling

Generation War: Our Mothers, Our Fathers (BBC2, 9.30pm)
Usually, if you want a Saturday night fix of subtitled drama, you have to turn to BBC Four. But now BBC Two is getting in on the act as well with this new series, the first foreign language show to premiere on the channel since The Kingdom back in 2001. But it's not just the fact that the characters aren't speaking English that makes Generation War unusual – it's also exploring the Second World War from the perspectives of five German friends. It opens in Berlin, in the summer of 1941, as highly decorated officer Wilhelm prepares to be leave for the eastern front with his bookish younger brother Friedhelm. But it's their Jewish friend Viktor who appears to be facing the most uncertain future.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Nigellissima. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 12.45 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. 2.00 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Leeds Rhinos v St Helens (Kick-off 2.30pm). 4.30 Final Score. 5.20 Film: Madagascar. (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Ben Stiller. 6.40 BBC News: National News; Weather. 7.00 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong hosts as contestants from the world of comedy take part in the game show. They are one-time Goodie Tim Brooke-Taylor, satirist John Bird, former sitcom actors Don Warrington, Ray Burdis and Robert Llewellyn, master of the hidden camera Dom Joly and stand-up stars Rhona Cameron and Richard Herring. Who'll be best when it comes to being worst? Richard Osman is the one with the answers. 7.50 The National Lottery: In It To Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Includes the Loto and Thunderball draws, hosted by Kate Garraway. 8.40 Casualty. Dixie risks her job to take a patient to see his dying mother, while a woman's unusual birthday treat to herself lands her in hospital. Jan Francis and John Bove guest star. 9.30 The Guess List. Harry Judd, Jason Manford, Carol Vorderman, Aled Jones and Kate Humble help contestants answer all sorts of everyday questions. 10.10 BBC News: Weather. 10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Southampton v Everton at the St Mary's Stadium and Manchester United v Norwich City at Old Trafford; National Lottery Update. 11.50 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Wigan Athletic v Blackpool. 11.10 Weatherview. 1.15 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Film: Caught. (1949) 7.30 Great British Menu. (R) 8.00 Great British Menu. (R) 8.30 Great British Menu. (R) 9.00 Great British Menu. (R) 9.30 Great British Menu. (R) 10.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 12.00 Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) 12.45 Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) 1.30 Escape to the Country. (R) 2.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 5.30 Mountain Gorilla. (R) 6.30 Flog It! Trade Secrets. Paul Martin and the show's experts offer more advice on making money from antiques and collectibles, with this edition focusing on rare and valuable tools. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The third and final session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where another two second-round matches are set to take place, with one of them scheduled to conclude. 8.00 Porridge. Career criminal Fletch plans his escape while being escorted to jail by two prison warders. Pilot episode of the classic comedy, starring Ronnie Barker and Fulton Mackay. (R) 8.30 Mozart in Prague: Rolando Villazon on Don Giovanni. The tenor explores the premiere of Mozart's opera of 1787, studying the music and the social setting in which it was first performed, before authentically recreating the finale. 9.30 Generation War: Our Mothers, Our Fathers. New series. German drama following the stories of five friends as their lives take different paths during the Second World War. Volker Bruch and Tom Schilling star. 11.00 The Sarah Milligan Television Programme. Sarah chats to Suzi Perry about F1 coverage, discusses Saturday night entertainment with Bruno Tonioli and talks magazine shows with Matt Baker and Alex Jones. Last in the series. (R) 11.30 Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad presents highlights of the concluding session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where another second-round match was scheduled to reach a climax. 12.20 Snooker: World Championship Extra. 2.20 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. 6.10 Dino Dan. (R) 6.25 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) 6.50 Animals. (R) 7.00 Animals. (R) 7.05 Sooty. (R) 7.20 Digimon Fusion. (R) 7.45 Horrid Henry. (R) 8.00 Adventure Time. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Film: Murder. She Wrote: South by Southwest. (1997) 11.10 Dinner Date. (R) 12.15 ITV News: Weather. 12.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 1.20 The Unforgettable Hughie Green. (R) 1.50 Tipping Point. (R) 2.50 All Star Family Fortunes. (R) 3.35 A Touch of Frost. (R) 5.35 Regional Programme. Weather. 5.45 ITV News: Weather. 6.00 Let Me Entertain You. New series. Michael Underwood showcases viewers' dancing, singing and lip-synching clips alongside entertaining videos from the internet and hidden-camera surprises. 6.30 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents. 7.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec present the third audition show, as the judges – Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon – hope to uncover more of the nation's talent. 8.15 Amazing Greys. Young contestants go head to head with old pros, including World Cup-winning England striker Geoff Hurst and golf ace Vivien Saunders. Paddy McGuinness and Angela Rippon host. 9.15 Law & Order: UK. When a series of shootings claims one of their own, Ronnie and Joe must solve the case before the killer reaches the next target – on a hit list that includes Henry Sharpe. (R) 10.15 The Americans. Kate relays orders for Philip to bug the Arpanet – the early version of the internet – to monitor US government communications, while Nina agrees to take the FBI's polygraph test. 11.15 ITV News: Weather. 11.30 Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon invites actor Larry Lamb and former Spice Girl Emma Bunton to join Dave Berry on the panel as he noses around the homes of three mystery celebrities. (R) 12.30 Jackpot247. 3.00 Dinner Date. Australia. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 River Cottage Bites. (R) 6.15 Trans World Sport. 7.10 The Grid. 7.40 A Day at the Races. 7.55 The Morning Line. 9.00 Weekend Kitchen. 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.55 How I Met Your Mother. 11.25 Film: I Met Your Mother. 11.50 The Simpsons. (R) 12.20 The Simpsons. (R) 12.45 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) 1.45 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park, Haydock Park and Ripon. 4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.15 Come Dine with Me. Merchant Navy officer Fiona Rush hosts the final dinner party in Belfast, hoping to impress with a nautical theme and fish dishes, before the winner is announced. (R) 6.45 Channel 4 News. 7.15 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets Tamayo Hussey, who has missed Japan ever since she moved to the UK 14 years ago with her husband, quantum physics professor Nigel. The couple want to transform a 1960s forester's lodge into a unique Japanese house, complete with a tatami room – decorated in her homeland's traditional style – sliding paper walls and a bath on the roof. Keen to keep costs down, they have decided to engage only the design skills – rather than the full services – of an architect, so with no previous building experience they tackle the project alone. (R) 8.15 Film: Avatar. (2009) A paraplegic soldier uses technology that allows him to control a genetically engineered body on a mission to a dangerous jungle world. His assignment is to infiltrate an alien tribe on behalf of a corrupt mining corporation, which wants to drive them from their land. He comes to sympathise with the natives, and helps them fight back against his employers. James Cameron's sci-fi adventure, starring Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver and Stephen Lang. 11.25 Film: Showgirls. (1995) A stripper sells out to become a star in a Las Vegas show, but reckons without the dubious backstage backstabbing. Adult drama, starring Elizabeth Berkley and Kyle MacLachlan. 1.50 The Good Wife. (R) 2.35 Desperate Housewives. (R) 3.15 Hollyoaks. (R) 5.25 SuperScrimpers' Challenge. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Gibraltar: Britain in the Sun. (R) 11.00 Benidorm ER. (R) 12.00 Beware! Cowboy Builders Abroad. (R) 1.00 Film: Columbo: Ashes to Ashes. (1998) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Patrick McGowan. 2.55 Film: Private Benjamin. (1980) Comedy, starring Goldie Hawn. 5.00 Film: Jesse Stone: Sea Change. (2007) Thriller, starring Tom Selleck. 6.40 Longmire. Walt searches for a missing Native American boy who has been fostered by a white family. 7.30 NCIS. The team investigates the death of a marine off the coast of Tanzania – a case complicated by the discovery that he had a link to Ziva. Starring Mark Harmon and Cote de Pablo. (R) 8.15 NCIS. The agents investigate the Halloween murder of a marine with a fondness for playing practical jokes. As the evidence accumulates, they begin to suspect he was killed by the exasperated victim of one of his pranks. Drama, starring Mark Harmon, David McCallum, Cote de Pablo, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette. (R) 9.05 5 News Weekend. 9.15 Britain's Funniest Comedy Characters. Olivia Colman narrates this countdown of the nation's top 50 TV comic creations, both new and old. Those featured include neurotic hotel owner Basil Fawlty, disillusioned executive Reginald Perrin, seedy landlord Rigby, the generation-hopping Blackadder, Ab Fab's Patsy and Eddy, David Brent from The Office, love's young dream duo Gavin & Stacey, crazy joke-shop owner Miranda, the even crazier Keith Lemon, Irish matriarch Mrs Brown and sex-mad virgin Julia from The Inbetweeners. Contributors to the show – some of whom are sure to feature on the list themselves – include Ruth Madoc (Hi-de-Hi!), Warren Mitchell (Alf Garnett), Neil Morrissey (Men Behaving Badly's Tony), Prunella Scales and Andrew Sachs (Fawlty Towers), plus Ann Widdecombe, Barry Cryer, Richard Curtis and Ronni Ancona. (R) 12.00 SuperCasino. 3.05 Classic Car Rescue. (R) 4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.10 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.30 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear Vietnam Special 8.15 Film: Toy Story 3 (2010) 9.55 Live at the Apollo 10.40 Russell Howard's Good News 11.10 Family Guy 1.00 Sweetest the Small Stuff 1.30 Russell Howard's Good News 2.00 in the Flesh 4.00 Close
BBC Four
7.00 Britain's Natural World: The Unnatural History of London 8.00 Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities 9.00 Cleopatra: The Film That Changed Hollywood 11.00 The Story of Top of the Pops 1973 12.00 Top of the Pops: 1979 12.35 John Denver: Country Boy 1.35 Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities 2.35 Britain's Natural World: The Unnatural History of London 3.35 Close
ITV2
11.05 Tom Daley Goes Global 12.10 Britain's Got Talent 1.30 Britain's Got More Talent 2.30 Lawsons: The Hot Desk 2.45 Film: Dungeons and Dragons (2000) 5.00 Film: Despicable Me (2010) 7.00 Totally You've Been Framed! 7.45 You've Been Framed! 8.15 Britain's Got More Talent 9.20 You've Been Framed: Family Special 10.00 Celebrity Juice 10.50 Crazy Beaches 11.15 Britain's Got Talent 12.35 Britain's Got More Talent 1.35 Fake Reaction 2.10 Dads 2.35 You've Been Framed! 3.00 Teleshopping
ITV3
11.40 Agatha Christie's Poirot 12.50 Jane Austen's Emma 3.00 Film: The Railway Children (1970) 5.10 Foyle's War 7.10 Rosemary & Thyme 8.15 Doc Martin 9.15 Martin Clunes: Man to Man 10.20 Cold Blood 11.55 Film: Carry On Follow That Camel (1967) 1.50 Judge Judy 2.10 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping
ITV4
11.40 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Rajasthan Royals v Royal Challengers Bangalore and Kolkata Knight Riders v Kings XI Punjab. 8.00 British Superbike Championship Highlights 9.00 Film: The Deer Hunter (1978) 12.45 River Monsters 1.50 Benidorm 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping 3.30 The Store 5.00 Teleshopping
E4
12.00 The Big Bang Theory 1.00 How I Met Your Mother 2.00 Film: Hop (2011) 4.00 Made in Chelsea 5.00 Rude(s)h! Tube 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 How I Met Your Mother 8.00 The Tomorrow People 9.00 Film: The A-Team (2010) 11.25 The Big Bang Theory 12.25 Party House 1.30 2 Broke Girls 2.00 The Cleveland Show 3.10 Youngers 4.00 Made in Chelsea 4.55 Ugly Betty
Film4
11.00 The Truth About Spring (1964) 1.00 Cocoon (1985) 3.20 The Longest Day (1962) 6.50 The Golden Compass (2007) 9.00 Planes, Trains and Automobiles (1987) 10.45 Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009) 12.30 Confessions (2010) 2.40 A Useful Life (2010) 4.00 Close

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CHOICE



Brenda Blethyn

Vera
(ITV, 8pm)

Not only did author Ann Cleeves create the books and characters on which the acclaimed Shetland is based, she's also the brains behind DCI Vera Stanhope, who's back for a new series. DS Ashworth's daughter witnesses the murder of pensioner Margaret Kraszewski on a busy Newcastle train at the height of rush hour. As a result, he's keener than ever to help Vera apprehend the killer, and the trail leads them to the B&B Margaret shared with a woman and her teenage children. Further investigation suggests she knew her killer, and that her death was tied to secrets from her past. Brenda Blethyn, David Leon, Jon Morrison, Clare Calbraith, Sonya Cassidy, Eva Birthistle, Alistair Petrie and Paul Copley star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Perfection. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Moon Planet. (R) **4.45** Points of View. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.35** BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.00 **Countryfile**. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison are in the Yorkshire Dales, helping small magazine The Dalesman celebrating its 75th anniversary by naming the top 75 icons of the county. Their journey takes in a visit to Bolton Abbey, a meeting with the ladies of Harrogate's Cappuccino Cycling Club – who are being photographed in their undies for charity – a brass band and a coastline search for the semi-precious stone, Whitley jet. Adam Henson meets the three finalists in the year's Outstanding Farmer of the Year award and Tom Harper investigates the claim that the current crisis over abandoned horses could be partially solved by eating the animals' meat. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow**. Fiona Bruce and the team visit Gregynog Hall, near Newtown in Powys, where items include secret plans drawn up by a British POW and an artistic tribute to race-riders victims.

9.00 **The Crimson Field**. Jon's spirits are lifted by the arrival of 13 soldiers who have avoided death by sticking together – but one of them holds a secret. Kitty is confronted by a figure from her past.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 **Match of the Day 2**. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Sunderland v Cardiff City, Liverpool v Chelsea and Crystal Palace v Manchester City.

11.40 **The White Slums: Reggie Yates' Extreme South Africa**. New series. Reggie Yates travels to South Africa 20 years after the first democratic elections to explore three different communities, beginning with a squatter camp.

12.40 Weatherview. **12.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.25** Film: Corned. (1945) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.15** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **1.00** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **1.45** Coast. **2.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

6.00 **50 Golden Years of Sport on BBC Two**. Sue Barker presents a look back at the history of sport on the channel through some of its most-watched events over the past 50 years. The film examines the birth of programmes including Match of the Day, Ski Sunday and Pot Black and reflects on memorable occasions such as the 1985 world snooker championship final between Dennis Taylor and Steve Davis, and the Ashes series in 1981. Featuring contributions by Gary Lineker, Ian Botham, Tanni Grey-Thompson, Steve Cram, Alan Hansen, Clare Balding, Des Lynam, Murray Walker and Alan Davies. (R)

7.00 **Live Snooker: The World Championship**. Coverage of the concluding session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where two second-round matches continue.

8.00 **Natural World: France – The Wild Side**. Paul McGann narrates a look at France's wildlife, revealing wolves, wild boar and bears living in the country's many mountains, valleys and forests. (R)

9.00 **Film: The Artist**. (2011) Premiere. A 1920s movie actor is smitten with a chorus girl he meets by chance, and helps arrange her big break in the film industry. Oscar-winning silent drama, starring Jean Dujardin, Bérénice Bejo and John Goodman.

10.35 **01 XL**. Stephen Fry hosts an extended version of the quiz, featuring Professor Brian Cox, Rhys Darby, Jason Manford and Alan Davies answering questions on the topic of justice.

11.20 **Snooker: The World Championship**. Jason Mohammad presents highlights of the concluding session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the second round continued with two more matches.

12.10 Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.10** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.05** Holby City. (R) **4.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Victorious. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25** Film: Columbo: Agenda for Murder. (1990) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **1.30** The Unforgettable Noele Gordon. (R) **2.00** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **3.20** Let Me Entertain You. (R) **3.50** Film: The Living Daylights. (1987) James Bond adventure, starring Timothy Dalton.

6.20 **Regional Programme**; Weather.

6.30 **ITV News**; Weather.

6.45 **Catchphrase**. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

7.30 **Off Their Rockers**. Seb needs a sponge bath. Rosie loses a rather unusual pet and Tony tries to prove there really is such a thing as a free lunch.

8.00 **Vera**. New series. The crime drama returns with an episode based on Ann Cleeves' recently published novel Harbour Street. Vera investigates the death of a pensioner found stabbed on a train at the height of rush hour. The case has a huge impact on Joe's home life when his daughter is named as a key witness, and he struggles to maintain a professional distance. The trail leads the team to a quiet Northumberland coastal town where clues appear to lead to one particular street – but why are the residents so reluctant to talk? Starring Brenda Blethyn, with David Leon, Sonya Cassidy, Jon Morrison and Eva Birthistle.

10.00 **Perspectives: Gary Kemp – Kick Out the Jams**. The Spandau Ballet star, a keen art collector, explores the work of Damien Hirst, Tracey Emin and the other Young British Artists, who shook up the modern art world 25 years ago.

11.00 **ITV News**; Weather.

11.20 **Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Britt Ekland**. The former Bond girl talks about her career and private life, opening up about her turbulent marriage to Peter Sellers. (R)

12.15 The Store. **2.45** Motorsport UK. **3.35** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.25** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Freesports on 4. **6.45** Freesports on 4. **7.10** British GT. **7.35** How I Met Your Mother. **8.00** How I Met Your Mother. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Secret Estates. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** Deal or No Deal. **4.30** Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules. (2011) Premiere. Children's comedy sequel, starring Zachary Gordon.

6.30 **Channel 4 News**.

7.00 **Pawn Stars**. The fight into the world of high-end pawnbroking, going behind the scenes at a Surrey-based firm dealing in luxurious and exclusive objects. In last year's one-off documentary, the asset experts at Prestige Pawnbrokers saw everything from a £25,000 designer handbag to a £1million helicopter, and in the first edition of this series, they're amazed by two diamond necklaces owned by very different clients. (R)

8.00 **For the Love of Cars**. Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead scour the nation for a Land Rover Series I, which went into production in 1948 with a run of just 39,000. Tracking down an example that has been sitting in a barn for more than 40 years, renowned car designer Ant tries to restore the unloved vehicle to its former glory. Meanwhile, Philip meets the Landie enthusiasts who gather in woodland to trash their cars in the most basic form of motorsport, plus men who once depended on the Series I for survival in the desert.

9.00 **Fargo**. Sheriff's deputy Molly begins to suspect Lester is involved in the murders, but new boss Bill points her in a different direction. Meanwhile, Malvo investigates the blackmail plot against a man known as the Supermarket King. Black comedy-drama based on the Coen brothers' critically acclaimed film, starring Martin Freeman, Billy Bob Thornton, Allison Tolman and Bob Odenkirk.

10.15 **The Haunting in Connecticut**. (2009) Premiere. Horror, with Virginia Madsen and Kyle Gallner.

12.10 Film: Sunshine. (2007) **2.00** The Good Wife. (R) **2.45** The Hotel. (R) **3.40** SuperCrimpers' Challenge. (R) **4.40** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Filth and the Flowerbuds. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.00** Access. **11.05** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.35** The Nightmarer Neighbour Next Door. (R) **12.35** Film: The Land Before Time. (1988) Animated adventure, with the voice of Gabriel Damon. **2.05** Film: Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey. (1993) Animal adventure, with the voice of Michael J. Fox. **3.45** Film: Lilo & Stitch. (2002) Disney animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Daveigh Chase. **5.30** Film: Freaky Friday. (2003) Disney comedy remake, starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan.

7.10 **5 News**.

7.15 **Film: Rush Hour 2**. (2001) The two mismatched detectives travel to Hong Kong to investigate a bombing at the US embassy, and in a Triad gangsters. Action comedy sequel, with Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker. Edited for violence and language.

9.00 **Film: The Other Guys**. (2010) Premiere. Two desk-bound incompetent cops live in the shadow of their more daring colleagues. However, when the heroes of the station are killed in a bizarre accident, the bumbling duo get the chance to prove their worth as they stumble across a tycoon's illegal activities. Action comedy, starring Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg, Steve Coogan and Eva Mendes. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.

11.10 **Film: Bad Boys**. (1995) Two detectives are forced to swap identities as they hunt for a heroin consignment stolen by a drug kingpin. Michael Bay's action thriller, starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence. Edited for language.

1.20 SuperCasino. **3.05** Britain's Crime Capitals. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be With You **8.30** Film: WALL-E (2008) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Ja'mie: Private School Girl **12.20** The Call Centre **1.20** Can Criminals Say Sorry? **2.20** Sweat the Small Stuff **2.50** In the Flesh **3.50** Great TV Mistakes **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Don Giovanni from the Royal Opera House **10.00** Sing: When the Last Ship Sails **11.20** The Joy of Easy Listening **12.50** The Wonder of Bees with Martha Kearney **1.20** Neil Diamond: Solitary Man **2.20** Neil Diamond: Radio 2 Electric Prom **3.25** Sounds of the 70s **2** Reggae – Str It Up **3.55** Close

ITV2

12.00 **Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park** (1997) **2.35** Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **4.30** Britain's Got Talent **5.45** Britain's Got More Talent **6.45** You've Been Framed! **7.20** Film: Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace (1999) **10.00** Viral Tap **10.50** Film: Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008) **1.00** Viral Tap **1.40** The Vampire Diaries **2.30** You've Been Framed! **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.25 Jane Austen's Emma **1.30** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.40** Rosemary & Thyme **4.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.55** Inspector Morse **8.00** The Zoo **9.00** Birds of a Feather **9.30** Vicious **10.00** Film: Fierce Creatures (1997) **11.55** Cracker **1.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **2.45** Judge Judy **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Delhi Daredevils v Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers Hyderabad v Chennai Super Kings. **8.00** Storage Wars **9.00** Film: Kitzschko (2011) **11.25** Film: Tremors (1989) **1.25** Warren United **1.55** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.35 Made in Chelsea **1.35** Revenge **2.35** Rude! (ish) Tube **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** The Tomorrow People **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Sister Act (1992) **10.05** Rude Tube: Utter Pranks **11.05** How I Met Your Mother **12.05** Rules of Engagement **1.00** Rude Tube: Utter Pranks **1.00** The Ricky Gervais Show **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 The Badly Bunch Movie (1995) **1.00** Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging (2008) **3.00** The Spiderwick Chronicles (2008) **4.50** Chariots of Fire (1981) **7.15** Fast Girls (2012) **9.00** The Adjustment Bureau (2011) **11.05** The Informers (2008) **1.00** If (1968) **3.15** Close

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A second cruise, this time along the Chobe River, almost guarantees sightings of elephant and hippo, then a visit to Cape Point passes the fishing harbour of Hout Bay. Continuing on, see the breathtakingly scenic Chapman's Peak Drive, full of rugged seascapes and cliffs to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

At Cape Point itself see the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic Ocean then it's on to Boulders Beach to see the resident penguin colony.

On the Winelands tour, a visit to the small town of Franschoek is included home to South Africa's most prestigious university and where period buildings and historic streets reinforce the town's dignified atmosphere. A cellar tour and tasting at the award-winning Boschendal Wine Estate is included.

The touring holiday ends in Cape Town. Take time to explore the excellent shopping and dining available, take the cable car to the summit of Table Mountain and, weather permitting, visit Robben Island where Nelson Mandela spent most of his 27 years incarceration.

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Film Choices

MONDAY

Smokin' Aces, ITV, 10.35pm

A Las Vegas showman agrees to become an FBI informant and dish the dirt on a big-time mobster. However, the gangster responds by putting a price on his head, and soon a motley crew of assassins from across the country are vying to claim the bounty – while the showman only has two agents for protection. Comedy crime drama, starring Jeremy Piven, Ben Affleck, Zach Cumber, Andy Garcia and Ray Liotta. (2007)

TUESDAY

Goodnight for Justice: Queen of Hearts, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Judge John Goodnight intercedes in a stagecoach robbery and rescues the only surviving passenger. He escorts her to safety by riverboat, gradually learning she is a con-woman who was on her way to prison. His staunch morals are tested as he is tempted to help her escape justice. Western sequel, starring Luke Perry, Katharine Isabelle and Ricky Schroder. (2013)

WEDNESDAY

A Bronx Tale, BBC1, 11.45pm

An honest, hard-working bus driver watches helplessly as his teenage son falls under the spell of a smooth-talking, sharp-suited gangster and is gradually drawn deeper into the criminal underworld. Crime drama, directed by and starring Robert De Niro. (1993)



Withnail & I, Friday, Channel 4, 12.30am

THURSDAY

Stealing Paradise, Channel 5, 3.15pm

An aeronautical engineer is outraged when a colleague steals her ideas for himself and patents them. When he is later found dead, she becomes the prime suspect in the police investigation, and must find a way to clear her name. Thriller, starring Rachael Leigh Cook. (2011)

FRIDAY

My Family's Secret, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A man attempts suicide, leaving a cryptic note claiming he may have caused his sister's death. His wife goes back to his home town in search of answers and asks his brother for help. She does not realise her brother-in-law has a split personality, and digging up the past brings out his more dangerous aspects. Thriller, starring Nicholle Tom, Philip Piccio and Dylan Neal. (2010)

Withnail & I, Channel 4, 12.30am

Two hard-drinking unemployed actors sharing a grotty flat in late 1960s London think they can escape their miserable existence by decamping to a cottage in the Lake District. But finding no respite from their problems, the less self-destructive of the pair comes to realise he has to leave his friend behind. Cult black comedy, starring Richard E Grant and Paul McGann. (1987)

Pick of the Week

Vera tries to keep her new case on track

Ann Cleeves must be feeling pretty pleased with the way her career is going at the moment.

The 60-year-old author's novels continue to sell well and the TV series *Shetland*, which is based on her books about DI Jimmy Perez, has just ended an acclaimed run on BBC1.

There's hardly been time to draw breath between that and the start of *Vera's* fourth series.

DCI Vera Stanhope, played so convincingly by Brenda Blethyn, was also created by Cleeves, and the first three sets of cases have proved popular with ITV viewers – and with the actress who plays her.

Blethyn has a variety of acclaimed roles to her name, including an Oscar nomination for playing an overbearing mother in *Little Voice*, but *Vera* is her longest acting commitment to date.

"I'll continue to play *Vera* for as long as the audience wants to see her, as I absolutely love the character," says the actress. "I was first attracted to the role because the drama focuses on the crime rather than her personal

life, and *Vera's* not your usual run-of-the-mill detective. She doesn't come with any baggage; she's not hampered by romance. If you passed her in the street you wouldn't dream she was a detective.

"The success of *Vera* is down to a team effort. It sounds a cliché to say it, but every single person in the cast and crew plays a vital role in the show's success. The international success of the previous three series is very gratifying and of course it's great to receive such positive feedback from fans."

In January, Cleeves' latest book featuring DCI Stanhope, *Harbour Street*, was published. It also forms the basis of the first case to be tackled by the character in this fourth run.

DS Ashworth's daughter witnesses the murder of pensioner Margaret Kraszewski on a busy Newcastle train at the height of rush hour.

As a result, he's keener than ever to help *Vera* apprehend the killer, particularly as he feels partly to blame for his daughter being on the train in the first place.

"Joe's daughter Jessie is under a lot of pressure to recall the events that took place, which is obviously very distressing for one so young, and which creates tension between Joe and Celine. Had Joe followed his wife's advice and paid for a taxi home, their daughter would have been spared the anguish."

The investigation eventually leads *Vera* and Joe to the B&B Margaret shared with a woman and her teenage children. Further investigation suggests she knew her killer, and that her death was tied to secrets from her past.

Once this case is wrapped up, there are three more for the duo to get their teeth into – what can we expect from those?

"Viewers will meet Marcus Summer (Kingsley Ben-Adir), our new pathologist, who is joining the team following Billy's departure," explains Blethyn. "He's a pretty smart cookie and quickly gets the measure of *Vera*!"

"And as always we have some stunning landscapes featured across the four films."



David Leon and Brenda Blethyn star in *Vera*, Sunday, ITV, 8pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Britain's Most Extreme Weather Channel 4, 8pm

It's been a mild winter, but Britain has been battered by terrible storms and gale force winds, not to mention a tidal surge. Flooding has wrecked the homes of thousands living across the country – and if extreme weather continues through the summer, we may end up with a drought. But why have we been facing such unusual conditions? In this four-part series, weatherman Alex Beresford attempts to find out. He also travels through the archives to find out if we're now facing the worst weather our shores have ever faced – and if things are getting worse. The first programme focuses on floods, and it seems that compared to the aftermath of the Great Storm of 1703, in 2014 we've got away with things lightly.

Prey

ITV, 9pm

We have high hopes for this new, three-part thriller, which stars John Simm. In some respects it sounds a little bit like *The Fugitive* – Simm plays a well-liked bloke who is framed for a crime he didn't commit, escapes from the authorities and sets out to clear his name. Simm plays DC Marcus Farrow, a likeable copper with two sons who is found at the scene of a brutal crime. When all the evidence points at him being the culprit, he's arrested and charged, but makes a bid for freedom. Suddenly he's on the run on the streets he used to police, trying to evade recapture by his colleague, DS Susan Reinhardt, while also attempting to clear his name.

TUESDAY

Happy Valley BBC1, 9pm

Writer Sally Wainwright and actress Sarah Lancashire must have formed a solid friendship after the incredibly successful *Last Tango in Halifax* – they've reteamed for this crime thriller, which incidentally is filmed not too far away from that romantic drama, in Calderdale, West Yorkshire. But while the backdrop of the rolling hills and sleepy villages may seem picturesque, there's enough crime going down to keep the local bobbies busy. Catherine Cawood (Lancashire) is the sergeant on duty when flustered accountant Kevin Weatherill (Steve Pemberton) stumbles into the station to report a crime – a crime that was his own doing.

WEDNESDAY

Secret Eaters Channel 4, 8pm

Having been together for four years, Allan and Emma are in that 'comfortable' stage – so much so that they have no idea why they seem to be putting on so much weight. But the surveillance cameras reveal something we can all be guilty of – super-sized portions at meal times. Not to worry – Anna Richardson is on hand with some no-nonsense advice and a plan of action to ensure the couple change their lifestyles and begin to notice the changes by the belt notch. Meanwhile, psychologist Dr Christy Ferguson sets up an experiment in a Manchester

office to see if pre-ordering your lunch means you're more likely to make healthier choices than choosing on impulse.

Derek

Channel 4, 10pm

Brace yourselves for Kev as you've never seen him before – or at least, doing something you never expected. Since we first met him in the first series, he's been a layabout who's preferred to spend his days downing cans of lager rather than actually doing anything constructive. But Kev seems set to change his ways when he discovers there are jobs available at Broadhill – seeing as he spends most of his time hanging out at the place, he may as well get paid for it, right? But cleaning up his act won't be easy... Meanwhile, Hannah worries about Vicky's new relationship and Derek is stirred up by a new acquaintance.



Prey, Monday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY

Posh Pawn Channel 4, 8pm

Millions of us telly addicts love spotting a bargain without leaving the comfort of our sofas, whether it's the whimsical charm of homegrown hit *Bargain Hunt*, or the high-octane, trailer trash world of Stateside smash *Storage Hunters*.

However, there's been a new edition to the genre in recent weeks thanks to *Posh Pawn*, the documentary series uncovering the hidden world of high-end pawnbroking. This week we meet reformed 1980s cat burglar Sid. He hopes to raise cash with assistance from his family and their jewellery. Meanwhile, *Prestige Pawnbrokers* boss James gets a shock while test driving a client's superbike at Brands Hatch, and new employee Kristen has to value two huge tanzanite stones.

FRIDAY

The Trip to Italy BBC2, 10pm

Steve and Rob visit Pompeii and then have lunch at Relais Blu on the Sorrento coast, overlooking the isle of Capri. Continuing their journey by car they head to the next hotel, where Rob receives a call from his agent telling him he has got the part in the movie he auditioned for.

The Beatles: The Night That Changed America – A Grammy Salute ITV, 10.35pm

Entertainment special commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Fab Four's ground-breaking first appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and celebrating their legacy. Songs performed on that momentous evening in 1964, as well as Beatles hits through the years, are covered here by some of the biggest names in music, including Maroon 5, Katy Perry, Ed Sheeran, Stevie Wonder, Alicia Keys and John Legend, and Eurythmics – reuniting for one night only. Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr team up for *Hey Jude* and *With a Little Help from My Friends*.

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No.270

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

15	18	18	10	4	12	20	20	15	25	14	17
25		12			12			8		2	
26		8	18	4	20	18	22	17	22		18
18	19	18			3			15	25	4	4
8		10		13	25	22	10		14		23
	11	25	24	18	2		26	12	18	4	4
				18	18		8				
20	6	4	18	8		5	18	3	25	11	
15	L	15			13	12	8	19	11		21
25	A	20	18	3		18			6	7	18
22		25		25	23	8	9	25	16	18	17
23		24	23			6		1		23	
7	25	19	1	8	18	25	10		8	25	23

1	14
2	15 L
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25 A
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
J	A	U	X	Q	B	Z	S	P	C	T	H	R
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
O	E	M	K	L	Y	G	V	I	W	D	N	F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

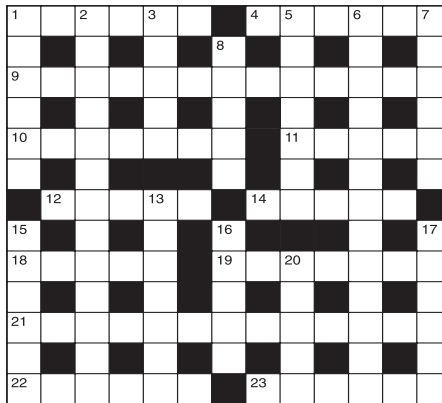
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. It may get broken - put it down! (6)
4. Don't contract for a feast (6)
9. He should know how to get people to make outstanding contributions (4-9)
10. Contacts by telephone and makes men join the army (5,2)
11. In the advertisement anger is ventilated (5)
- 12 & 6 Dn. What the stage electrician provides? (5,13)
14. About to bet on a kind of race (5)
18. Ice may accompany rich food (5)
19. To inflame the feelings in what is reasonable, we hear (7)
21. The state of the team who receive no vocal encouragement? (13)
22. Give evidence that a teetotaler is attached to a different set (6)
23. Are those off this track defeated? (6)

Down

1. Don't increase the weight - cut the price (6)
2. Comrade-in-arms (2-11)
3. Competitions for those with common characteristics? (5)
5. Before the deceased archbishop (7)
6. See 12 Across
7. Being out of order, I deliberately adopt a mocking attitude (6)
8. Makes uncertain progress causing mistakes (5)
13. Funny sounding part associated with a member (7)
15. Sensitive plant raised in Jamaica carefully! (6)
16. Bad habits they won't let go (5)
17. Logically think out the cause (6)
20. Social distinction is rejected, we hear (5)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Retiring (6)
4. Firm (6)
9. Mixed (13)
10. Loiters (7)
11. Anaesthetic (5)
12. Cleave (5)
14. Employers (5)
18. Denude (5)
19. Dispossess (7)
21. Amusement (13)
22. Abandon (6)
23. Pure (6)

Down

1. Mutter (6)
2. Crumbles (13)
3. Riddle (5)
5. Offers (7)
6. Comradeship (13)
7. Make certain (6)
8. Near (5)
13. Sovereign (7)
15. Climb (6)
16. Perfect (5)
17. Pay bill (6)
20. Nip (5)

Sudoku

					2	1		7
	2		4	7				
9					5		4	3
6			1		8			
		9			6	7		
		5		8	3			6
1	3		9					8
		8		2	1		6	
5	4	8						2

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	7	1	2	4	8	3	6	5
8	2	5	7	6	3	1	4	9
4	6	3	5	1	9	8	7	2
6	9	4	3	2	7	5	1	8
7	3	2	8	5	1	6	9	4
1	5	8	4	9	6	7	2	3
5	4	6	1	8	2	9	3	7
3	8	9	6	7	4	2	5	1
2	1	7	9	3	5	4	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Stout-hearted; 7 Groom; 8 Credo; 9 Oar; 10 Fishpaste; 11 Radish; 12 Ceding; 15 President; 17 Amp; 18 Extra; 19 Issue; 21 Green fingers. Down: 1 Stenographer; 2 Too; 3 Enmesh; 4 Recipient; 5 Evens; 6 Foreign parts; 7 Gored; 10 Fascinate; 13 Image; 14 Relief; 16 Enter; 20 Sun. QUICK - Across: 1 Pettifoggery; 7 Greet; 8 Tramp; 9 Ere; 10 Protector; 11 Unsure; 12 Finish; 15 Suffering; 17 Ban; 18 Twine; 19 Curve; 21 Unseasonable. Down: 1 Prerequisite; 2 Ire; 3 Option; 4 Gathering; 5 React; 6 Appreciative; 7 Guess; 10 Persevere; 13 Imbue; 14 Discus; 16 Feign; 20 Run.

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Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply for all breaks

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THIS house in Claverley, is an immaculate detached family home in a peaceful setting with four bedrooms, three reception rooms a conservatory, double garage and landscaped rear garden

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No1 Danesbrook is in a popular cul-de-sac in this sought-after village. Accommodation includes solid oak flooring. The drive providing ample parking with access to the detached double garage and a pleasant landscaped rear garden. Call Berriman Eaton on 01902 747744.



Modern home has been attractively decorated



A four bedroomed modern detached home in Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal, Dudley is well maintained and attractively decorated throughout.

It is for sale through Your Move at £250,000.

The spacious property comprises entrance porch, entrance hallway with a cloakroom.

The lounge has laminate flooring and a bay window, double doors to the dining room, which overlooks the rear garden and a door into the fitted kitchen, which has a range of integrated appliances, a door to the garage and a door to the garden.

Off the first floor landing are four good sized bedrooms, with the master having an en suite.

The bathroom has a white suite with spa-style bath and wood effect flooring. Call 01384 455000 or visit www.your-move.co.uk



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NEW
QUINTON, Ridgacre Lane £795 pcm - Fees
Beautifully redecorated 3 bed detached house, convenient for the number 9 bus into Birmingham. This property will not last long and features 2 doubles and 1 single bedroom, 2 reception rooms, office room, large kitchen diner with fridge freezer, brand new bathroom with shower, driveway for 1 car, large rear and side garden. EPC: E



BRIERLEY HILL, Golden Cross Way £750 pcm - Fees
A furnished detached house close to Brierley Hill Town Centre. Featuring a downstairs w.c., living/dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, master bedroom with en suite shower room, house bathroom. Benefits also include gas central heating, front and rear gardens, garage. Convenient location for Merry Hill. Inspection strongly recommended. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Alwin Road £650 pcm - Fees
This detached house in a cul-de-sac location. Located close to local shops and transport links. Featuring gas central heating, living room, dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC



NEW
HALESOWEN, Holt Road £575 pcm - Fees
2 MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An immaculately presented mid terraced property in a convenient location for shops, buses and motorway links. The property features a homely lounge, dining room, luxury refitted shower room, 2 double bedrooms, and 2 single loft rooms, gas central heating, double glazing, small rear courtyard garden, on road parking. EPC: D



NEW
CRADLEY HEATH, Perry Park Road £575 pcm - Fees
A well presented 3 bedroom semi detached house comprising of lounge/dining area, fitted kitchen, guest w.c./utility area, 3 double bedrooms, refitted bathroom, gas central heating, part double glazing, rear garden with decking area, driveway for 2 cars. Close to Old Hill railway station. Viewing recommended. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Cradley Road £550 pcm - Fees
A semi detached house within walking distance to Cradley Hill Town Centre and rail links to Birmingham. This lovely house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Benefits include gas central heating, double glazing, driveway, enclosed front garden. Available 01/05/14. EPC: E



NEW
NETHERTON, Purlin Wharf £550 pcm - Fees
A very presentable, unfurnished ground floor apartment on this popular development, ideally located for canal walks, this property features 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom with white suite, double glazing, electric heating, 1 allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: TBC



NEW
ROWLEY REGIS, Duke Street £550 pcm - Fees
A 2 bedroom refurbished mid terraced property, within walking distance to local buses and Blackheath Town Centre, comprising of: 1 large reception room/dining area, fitted kitchen, low maintenance private rear garden with gates at the rear, spiral staircase to the 1st floor to 2 bedrooms, large bathroom with a separate shower cubicle, a must see property! EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Lane £530 pcm - Fees
A superb fully re-furnished traditional terraced house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C



NEW
ROWLEY REGIS, Dudley Road £525 pcm - Fees
A beautifully presented duplex apartment close to shops and bus links. This great place has stunning views and features a great size lounge, modern kitchen with a separate dining area, sun room and balcony, access to a large rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing, parking to the front. EPC: TBC



QUARRY BANK, Charles Road £525 pcm - Fees
Within walking distance to Quarry Bank shops and bus links. This property is also close to Cradley Heath Train Station and Merry Hill. This home features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, large fitted dining kitchen, bathroom with shower, paved driveway and rear gardens. EPC: TBC



NEW PRICE
CRADLEY HEATH, Luanne Close £500 pcm - Fees
Situated in a popular residential area. This ground floor apartment, which overlooks the canal and has its own balcony, features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, access to balcony from the master bedroom and lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Well worth a viewing. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Peckingham Street £495 pcm - Fees
Wonderfully refurbished with original features. This lovely apartment is immediately available with fantastic convenience centre of town. Ring us now to view this lovely light and airy flat. The apartment has a modern kitchen with new appliances and useful utility room. With 2 double bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street £475 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished 3rd floor apartment on a popular development, close to Old Hill High Street and the local train station. The property features: living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, allocated parking space. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Mill Road £475 pcm - Fees
Located on this very popular Timbertree Estate and ideally situated for local schools and transport links. Comprising 1 double and 2 single bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower, tiered rear garden. On road parking. EPC: D



NEW PRICE
CRADLEY HEATH, Coppice Road £465 pcm - Fees
A 2 double bedroom semi-detached house on the Timbertree Estate. This house comprises of a front reception room, spacious rear lounge, fitted kitchen, fitted wardrobes in the master bedroom, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC: C



BRIERLEY HILL, Norwood Road £450 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished end terraced house, close to local shops and not far from Merry Hill Shopping Centre. This large house features a lovely living room, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden, on road parking. EPC: E



LYE, High Street £400 pcm - Fees
Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This large and spacious 1st floor apartment has a lovely lounge with a feature bay window, 2 good size bedrooms, new bathroom suite but no shower, modern and contemporary kitchen with oven and hob, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. EPC: F



NEW
CRADLEY HEATH, Great Western Drive £395 pcm - Fees
A very well presented 1st floor apartment in a well sought after location. Ideal for Old Hill Train Station, local shops and bus links. The apartment features a great size lounge with a 2 seater sofa, coffee table and bookcase, modern kitchen, bathroom with shower, allocated parking for 1 car, communal gardens to the rear. EPC: TBC



LYE, Summer Street £385 pcm - Fees
Situated close to local shops of Lye and Lye Train Station. This lovely 1st floor apartment which is being re-decorated features 1 double bedroom, brand new fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower off the taps, spacious lounge, allocated parking and large communal gardens. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Trinity Street £375 pcm - Fees
House share in a large Victorian semi-detached home. Large furnished double bedroom available in this lovely period house. Kitchen, bathroom and large lounge are all shared facilities. Wi-Fi broadband. Rent to include all bills. 2 people sharing will be £100 pcm extra. EPC: E

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£240,000

This traditional extended detached house comprises extended lounge diner, kitchen, three bedrooms, front and rear gardens. Halesowen

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£145,000

This semi detached property situated in a cul-de-sac comprises lounge diner, extended kitchen breakfast room, three bedrooms and bathroom. Halesowen

Mace Street, Cradley Heath



£110,000

This four bedroom terraced house comprises lounge, two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom and rear garden.

Forge Lane, Cradley Heath



£120,000

This traditional semi detached house situated in an established residential area is in close proximity to lots of local amenities. Halesowen

Green Lane, Halesowen



£75,000

This traditional mid terraced property comprises lounge, three bedrooms and rear garden. Halesowen.

Cowley Drive, Dudley



£155,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, two reception rooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Beech Road, Tividale



Offers Over £130,000

A well maintained semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising, lounge, dining room, study, extended kitchen and family bathroom.

Monins Avenue, Tipton



£122,500

End terraced four bedroom, three storey property briefly comprising ground floor with kitchen, dining room, conservatory and bathroom.

Newcomen Drive, Tipton



£120,000

Mid terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, upstairs shower room, rear garden and driveway.

Lambert Fold, Dudley



Offers Over £110,000

Mid terraced, well presented, two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, loft space and allocated parking.

Marigold Crescent, Dudley



£90,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, conservatory, downstairs WC, upstairs shower room and rear garden.

Highfield Road, Tipton



£80,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, bathroom, rear garden and driveway.



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New dealership opens

Commercial feature

Hyundai Motor UK has further strengthened its dealer network with the addition of a new outlet in the West Midlands.

Hyundai Birmingham West will serve customers in the Birmingham, Halesowen, Quinton, Harborne and Smethwick area of the city from its site on Hagley Road West.

The new dealership is the latest to be added to the portfolio of Worcester Car Sales Limited, a family-run business which has been established in the area for over 60 years.

Three generations of the Grieveson family have led the success of the group, and the grandson of founder Derrick

Grieveson will continue this legacy by heading up the totally refurbished outlet.

General manager of Hyundai Birmingham West, Oliver Grieveson, said: "We share a passion for quality with Hyundai, so the opening of our new site is the ideal way to celebrate 60 years of service to the West Midlands community.

Future

"Both companies are looking firmly to the future, providing customers with excellent cars and the highest standards of service for many years to come."

Tony Whitehorn, president and CEO, Hyundai Motor UK, said: "I'm delighted we are expanding our network in the West Midlands with Hyundai Birmingham West. Our focus on quality and building strong relationships with customers is clearly



'Dealership's refurbished customer facilities also include a new service, MoT, parts and accessories department'

shared by a company which continues to prosper six decades after it was founded."

Visitors to the new Hagley Road West showroom will be able to experience the full range of award-winning Hyundai vehicles, such as the New ix35 and new generation i10.

Hyundai Birmingham West is offering customers a range of special opening offers, while every new Hyundai passenger car sold comes with Hyundai's industry-leading five-year unlimited mileage warranty, which includes five

years of roadside assistance and five years of annual vehicle health checks.

The dealership's refurbished customer facilities also include a new service, MoT, parts and accessories department to enhance customer service.

Motability customers at Hyundai Birmingham West can enjoy worry-free motoring. Those eligible for the scheme can lease a new Hyundai.

Tel: 0121 434 6400, visit the dealership on Hagley Road West, or log on to the website at www.hyundaibirmingham.co.uk



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Models shown: i20 Classic 1.2 5dr at £10,695 OTR in Coral White solid paint at no extra cost, i20 Classic 1.2 3 door available at £10,095* OTR, i30 Active 1.4 at £16,010 OTR in Creamy White solid paint at no extra cost, i30 Classic 1.4 3 door available at *£14,305 OTR. On the road (OTR) prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. All offers and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 1st April and 30th June 2014, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask your local Dealer. Fuel consumption: Figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 5dr: Urban 46.3 (6.1), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 57.6 (4.9), CO₂ Emissions 114 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i30 Active 1.4: Urban 35.8 (7.9), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 47.1 (6.0), CO₂ Emissions 139 g/km.

Drivetime

ADAM a new take on sector

Commercial feature

The ADAM is Vauxhall's refreshingly different take on the small-car sector.

It doesn't replace the brand's conventional citycar and supermini offerings but it does offer a more stylish option for buyers bored by the sight of BMW's reinvented MINI on every drive and unmoved by Fiat's funky 500. Here's a fashionable alternative with an encyclopaedic list of options.

The ADAM is available in three trim levels - Jam, Glam and Slam. Here, we focus on the ADAM Jam, which offers a fresh and bold modern look. It comes in two-tone design style both inside and out, and an expressive palette of colours are available which will grab and keep people's attention.

No fewer than 12 body colours means you can create a cool two-tone look with three optional roof packs.

Inside, you also have a choice of colour schemes and both are eye-catching. Vauxhall has thought of everything as far as style goes as even your ADAM's key matches your exterior choice.

The ADAM Jam Extreme takes you to the next level. Here you're provided with a coloured roof, front logo bar and stunning 17in Hurricane alloy wheels.

There's a vast amount of choice with ADAM Jam trim with prices starting from £11,805.

There's a lot of promise about the Vauxhall Mokka too. It looks good, it's well equipped and it offers buyers a number of well-thought-out options. The design is handsome, and it looks to be one of those car shapes which will age very well while more radical competitors date rapidly.

Top-of-the-range Exclusiv trim level



'The design is handsome, and it looks to be one of those car shapes which will age very well while more radical competitors date rapidly.'

brings even more colour, style and luxury to the Mokka, which has clearly been designed for the urban environment, but that's not to say the ability to be driven off-road has been totally neglected. To this end, Vauxhall wisely offers both front and four-wheel drive chassis options, with the all-wheel drive mechanicals being fully adaptive.

Exclusiv specification includes a multitude of standard features. Air conditioning and dual-zone climate control, DMB digital radio with CD/MP3 with aux-in socket and USB connection and iPod control along with Bluetooth functionality are all included within the Exclusiv package.

In addition to all this, you'll find the Mokka Exclusiv with steering wheel-mounted

audio controls, cruise control, silver-effect roof rails, rain-sensitive windscreen wipers, electrically-adjustable heated door mirrors, front and rear electric windows, front fog lights, front and rear parking sensors, a leather covered steering wheel, stainless steel exhaust tailpipe and highly attractive sterling silver-effect 18in alloy wheels.

That's a pretty comprehensive tally and the list of standard safety features is just as generous with traction control, decent control system, switchable electronic stability programme, hill start assist, anti-lock braking system and a full complement of airbags to protect all the Mokka's occupants.

Prices for the Mokka Exclusiv start at £18,064.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 88g/km. #

Personal contract hire offer on Mokka Exclusiv 1.6 in Orange Rock and Adam Jam 1.2i 16v VVT in brilliant white on orders received between 2 April and 1 July 2014, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures for Mokka based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £3,383, then 35 monthly rentals of £199. Excess annual miles over 10,000 charged at 11.08ppm. Figures for Adam based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £1,980, then 23 monthly rentals of £99. Excess annual miles over 8,000 charged at 7.14ppm. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. For full specification and T&Cs contact your local Retailer: ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, Oakwood Park, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.



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pay by its previous owner and to ensure that the mileage shown on the clock is genuine.

By visiting www.halesowenautos.co.uk you can see the dealership's cars online. No appointment is necessary, but please feel free to call the sales team on 0121 501 3840 to see if your next quality used car is still available as stock changes quickly. You'll find Halesowen Autos at 1 Cross Street, Halesowen, B63 4RT.

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<p>08/07 Vauxhall Astra 1.3 CDTi Diesel 16V (a/c) Life, * ONLY 31K MILES*, Silver, Air Con, CD £5295 / £31 Per Week</p>	<p>09/08 Suzuki SX4 1.6 GLX 5-door ONLY 34k, Blue, Alloys, CD £4995 / £24 Per Week</p>
<p>08/07 Renault Megane 1.9 dCi Diesel 130 Dynamique Convertible 49k, Black, One Owner, Electric Glass Roof £4995 / £24 Per Week</p>	<p>04/04 Saab 9-3 1.8t Vector Convertible 51k, Yellow, Alloys, Full Leather, E/Roof, CD Player £4995 / £36 Per Week</p>
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Finance example: Renault Megane 1.9 dCi DIESEL Dynamique Convertible, Cash Price £4995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 12% APR, 60 Payments of £103 (£23.76 per week) Total amount payable £6480.00 (Excludes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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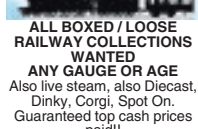
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6 Property

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FORD FIESTA Zetec TDCi, 07 plate, silver, 8,530 miles, £4,500 ono. 01743 718868.

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Success for pair at swim contest

HALESOWEN swimmers, Chloe Finch and Richard Spoor made the long trip and both enjoyed a successful British Gas Swimming Championship in Glasgow recently.

They both made it through to the semi-finals and finals with both swimming faster than in their heats.

Spoor, competing for Loughborough University, was aiming for a spot on the England team even though the qualifying criteria was incredibly tough. In the 100m breaststroke Richard made it through to the semi-final but just missed out on a place in the final. In the 50m Breaststroke Spoor made the semi-final again but fell agonising short of a place in the final by just 7/100ths of a second.

Finch, competing for City of Birmingham, had a gruelling five days of competition in the 200m, 400m and 800m freestyle events and made it through to all of the junior finals. In the 200m Finch made it to the final and finished fourth. In the 800m freestyle she won a bronze medal. On the final day it was fast swimming again for Finch, and in the 400m final grabbed another third place on the podium.

Sports in last eight with ease

Bilston 1 Dudley Sports 2 DUDLEY Sports progressed to the quarter-final of the West Midlands League Premier Division Cup with victory at Bilston.

The game last Wednesday began with both teams having half-chances but neither troubled the keepers. Sports took the lead on 20 minutes after Bilston failed to clear, Conner Mayher thumping home from 20 yards. They got a second when a Richie Jones shot somehow found its way in with a little help from the Bilston keeper.

They should have got a third on the stroke of half-time when Jones found himself clear but his shot was saved. Bilston got one back in the 80th minute but Sports eased through.

Monarchs ride away with share of spoils

WEDNESFIELD cycle speedway team claimed a draw at home against Birmingham as the meeting went down to a final heat decider at Ashmore Park.

Birmingham travelled the short distance to the Aces on the back of two wins in the league. The Monarchs had just one change to the side that won against Coventry as Ewan Hancox came in for Bob Prince.

Wednesfield had the tough spearhead of Ex-Monarch Paul Heard as well as Ben Mould and Chris Jewkes.

Heat one saw Birmingham take a 6-4 advantage with Mark Winwood taking the win

Cycle Speedway

but it was short lived as the Aces claimed a 7-3 with Johnson and Heard getting the better of Carl Winwood and Scott Millward. Heat three saw Chris Jewkes get his marching orders for moving at the tapes as Birmingham made a 7-2 in the restart with Andy James rolling back the years with a win with Chris Timms behind.

Heat four saw Welsh International Mark Winwood get his second win of the afternoon as he looked sharp on the track

beating fellow Welsh rider Ben Mould with Hodgkinson beating Alex Aris to make the scores 22-17. Heat five was awarded as Phil Hemming took a tumble on the fourth bend though the Monarchs could of felt James should of got second as he tangled with the former Sandwell rider as he had nowhere to go.

Heats six to eight saw shared heats as Millward, Mould and Heard all won. Heat nine before the interval saw a tussle on the fourth bend between Aris and Hodgkinson with the Monarch rider going down. The referee called a halt and excluded the

Smethwick-based racer for the cause of the stoppage. The rerun saw Aris and Jewkes make it a 7-2 to put the half time scores Birmingham 45 Wednesfield 42.

Heat ten saw Andy James claim his second win. Heat sixteen saw Millward excluded and though Mark Winwood made it a hat-trick the Aces filled in the places behind to get a point advantage to make it 76-80. Heat seventeen saw share of the points which then made sure Birmingham would not lose the meeting. Heat eighteen saw the Monarchs take points back to Perry Barr.

Last minute goal sees the points shared out

Tivdale 1 Walsall Wood 1

TIVIDALE put Wood under instant pressure and should have been ahead after just three minutes, late replacement Keiron Miller threading a ball into the right of the box to put Leigh Downing in on goal but a poor first touch rolled the ball to keeper Raajan Gill.

Wood's first meaningful attack came on nine minutes, Lewis Taylor Boyce racing clear wide right, playing a neat 1-2 with Joey Butlin, his cross cut out by keeper Charles Price.

Dale's move broke down and the ball was played up to Butlin wide right, he made space for a right wing cross, Harry Harris getting in a header that Price saved comfortably.

From a right wing corner on 14 minutes the Wood defence lived dangerously, three shots were blocked by defenders and then Gill dived bravely at the feet of Miller.

With 16 minutes gone Taylor Boyce got clear again wide right, his low cross flashing cross the face of the six-yard box and eluding everyone.

Two minutes later a ball over the top almost put Miller clear, Lee Stretton managing to touch the ball back to Gill who just managed to kick the ball away from Miller.

After 23 minutes Taylor Boyce again made space wide right before playing the ball inside to Harris on the right edge of the box who hit a rising drive that

Football

was tipped away by Price. Butlin was first to the loose ball but was denied by a superb tackle from Luke Paskin, loud penalty appeals ignored. Butlin charged down an attempted clearance by Paskin on 37 minutes and fed Taylor Boyce on the edge of the box, his first time effort was blocked, the ball fell to Craig Hancox to hit a first time low drive inches wide.

A minute later the Champions went ahead, a right wing corner was punched away by Gill but was delivered back into the danger zone, skipper Mark Smith climbing highest to loop a header into the left hand corner.

On 65 minutes Andre Gonzales won the ball near the left hand corner and played the ball back to Harris, he cut inside and his low drive was saved at full stretch by Price.

With the Champions looking to have held out another ball was hit out wide to the left, this time it was collected at pace by Andre Gonzales who cut inside and his low drive beat the right hand of the diving Price and justice was done.

Youngsters get chance to tackle skills of rugby



Some of the youngsters who were involved in the Easter training sessions at Wednesbury Rugby Club

YOUNGSTERS were able to tackle the skills of rugby thanks to Wednesbury Rugby Club.

For two days last week the club ran a rugby camp to introduce the sport to 7 to 14 year old girls and boys.

It was run by the RFU and Wednesbury Rugby Club with both organisations providing coaches. Lead coach Adam Blackford community rugby coach for the RFU said: "The camp had been a great success

with two days of rugby and fun in glorious weather.

"The aim is to introduce rugby to young people and to get them interested in the game."

Paul Hill one of Wednesbury's youth team coaches said these camps are a great way to get young people involved with the game of rugby, Wednesbury Rugby Club are recruiting players of all ages and all skill levels.

The aim of the club is to recruit players and hopefully they will progress right through the club and eventually play first team rugby.

Wednesbury train young players from seven to 14 they train on Tuesdays 5-30 to 7pm and Sundays 10am to noon, just turn up on one of the training days or contact the club, Paul Hill on 07730417927, Dave Bryant 07795348334 or Adam Blackford RFU contact for Sandwell.

Speedway heroes to meet the fans

CRADLEY fans have the chance to meet their heroes before next Tuesday's opening home league meeting of the season at Monmore.

The club are having team posters printed to give away to every supporter and they can get them signed at a rider autograph session between 6.30-7pm.

Buxton are the visitors as the Heathens look to make a winning start on home shale as they defend their National League title.

Co-boss Nigel Pearson said: "The current crop of riders are extremely popular with the fans and this is an opportunity for supporters to come along and get their poster signed."

"We appreciate the support we get week in and week out and this is just another way of the club giving something back to supporters."

"The poster will feature the full team and there will be team members available on entry to the stadium before they go for the track walk."

"We are also looking at putting other added attractions on at meetings later in the season, at no extra cost to the fans, because we want to show them how much we appreciate their backing."

Casuals let their lead slip away

Smethwick Rangers 2 W-ton Casuals 2

CASUALS twice held the lead but they dropped two vital West Midland Premier division points in the race for promotion.

Wolves went in front in the 18th minute when the unmarked Angelo Franco at the near post put the finishing touch to an Adrian Jones corner.

Rangers rocked the visitors by equalising in the 60th minute Gurjit Singh latched onto a long clearance to beat Tim Beech.

Casuals hit back to regain the lead in the 75th through Chris Henry from six yards. Casuals lead was short lived though when Singh rifled home a superb 25 yard free kick.



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Sylla is looking to leave the Villa

YACOUBA Sylla says he is unhappy at Villa and wants to quit the club on loan.

The midfielder claims he is "no longer the same man" after failing to make an impression this season.

Sylla has made just six starts this term with the last coming in the 3-0 defeat to Manchester United in December.

He has not dislodged Fabian Delph, Karim El Ahmadi and Ashley Westwood from the midfield and admitted he is eyeing a temporary switch.

He said: "There are a lot of teams I could contribute to. I think I will leave on loan at the end of the season. I could already have done so in December but the gaffer told me that he was counting on me."

"What I want, is to come back to France, on loan for one year to a good club, a team with a good project."

"My agent Moussa Sissoko is working for that and there are interested clubs."

"Again, the most important thing for me is to play. I am no longer the same man, not the same player. I cannot wait to change all that again."

Sylla signed from Clermont in January 2013 and played 11 times as Villa secured their Premier League safety in the final week.

Thorne hints at Rams stay

ALBION midfielder George Thorne has hinted he could stay at Derby next season if he helps the Rams reach the Premier League.

Thorne scored his first Derby goal to cap a man-of-the-match display in Friday's 2-0 win at Doncaster. And the 21-year-old has hinted he could be tempted into an extended loan or permanent switch to the Rams if they reach the top flight.

Steve McClaren's men look on course for the Championship play-offs and Thorne said: "I've always said I want to be playing in the Premier League next season but it could be with Derby. I want to get promoted with Derby and then sit down and review things."

"Ideally you'd like automatic promotion, but if it comes down to a day at Wembley we'd back ourselves in a one off game."

Orient win helps Wolves to be champions

Leyton Orient 1 Wolves 3

KENNY JACKETT'S side are by some way the best side in League One this season, and, as their points total reflects, one of the most superior teams at this level for some time.

In that dizzying spell of goals and victories, Jackett's boys have hit the net 47 times and conceded just 11.

As overworked keeper Carl Ikeme said after their win over Orient, it's not always been as easy as the league table or those statistics now suggest.

There have been many times when fine

Football

marginal decisions have swung games one way or the other. But at almost every turn since that miserable defeat at Gillingham on January 3, Wolves have found a way to win.

Yes, you can argue things went their way – none more so than when Richard Stearman's clear handball in the penalty area was missed by referee Neil Swarbrick after 28 minutes when they were 1-0 ahead. Not for the first time this season did a decision go for them, but full marks to them for

making the most of their opportunity. Four minutes later, Bakary Sako struck to make it 2-0 to finally draw level with long-departed Leigh Griffiths at the top of the club scoring charts.

And thereafter there was a certain inevitability about the outcome.

By then Stearman had nodded Wolves in front.

Two goals ahead, you might have been forgiven for thinking Wolves could have eased up a little. But that is not Jackett's way and it certainly wasn't the way the game was going. Perhaps as a gesture to

their own admirable but flawed title hopes, Orient were like a dog with a bone and tore at the visitors' defence either side of half-time.

And after Ikeme foiled Dagnall and Mooney within the opening minute of the restart, it was little surprise when Cox side-footed home to halve the deficit 60 seconds later after Wolves failed to clear a high ball into the box.

James Henry's 30-yard drive that ripped past Jones in extra time added the gloss. Wolves fans won't care if it was flattering. They are champions and on their way back.

Defeat 'is just a blip'

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger has called on his side to bounce back from their Coventry disappointment and prove their first loss of the season was just a blip.

After making a bright start to the season, the Heatens suffered a 46-43 defeat against their Midlands' neighbours on a frustrating night at Brandon.

A combination of mechanical issues, refereeing decisions and costly mistakes saw the club suffer an uncharacteristic defeat as they bid to defend their National League title.

Yet despite his frustrations, Pottinger is backing his side to return to their brilliant best in the coming weeks.

He said: "Of course it's extremely disappointing to lose after being eight points up at one stage. A few things went against us machinery wise and with decisions; it was just one of those nights really."

"At least we came away with a point which is better than nothing and the minimum requirement from away meetings."

"We just need to put this one behind us, take the positives and move on."

Ellie adds gold medal to haul

ELLIE SIMMONDS won 400m freestyle gold to claim her second medal of the British Para-Swimming International meet on the final day in Glasgow.

The Paralympic and world champion lowered her time by more than a second to finish in 5.26.52 and secured her third qualification for the contest.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, April 24

WIN MOVES YELTZZ CLOSER TO TITLE

Carlton 1 Halesowen 3

THE Yeltz went one step closer to the Evo-Stik Division One South trophy with a tough, yet promising victory over top half side Carlton Town.

Halesowen made one change to the side that played Sheffield, as Asa Charlton replaced Brendan Kelly who returned to the bench.

Football

The Yeltz were the dominant side throughout the first half, as on nine minutes, an error from the Carlton defence allowed Ben Haseley to take a chance at goal, as he slotted the ball under the keeper, but his shot was off-target and the ball rolled out of play.

The visitors kept creating chances however, as Lyseden Christie headed the ball just over the bar and moments later, Haseley blasted the ball wide of the right hand post.

Chances

The chances kept coming for The Yeltz as Aaron Griffiths' hit a shot that was well saved by Jonathan Viscosi and on 25 minutes, Christie's goal-bound header was just knocked past the post by Carlton's Billy Bennett.

Carlton first chance of the game came on the stroke of half time as Ben Flynn hit a volley from range that flew wide of the right hand post. The Yeltz went in at half-time to find out that Coalville had taken the lead against Leek, and so a victory was the minimal requirement from this game now.

Halesowen came out fighting after the restart, as Ben Haseley's powerful shot

could only be parried out by Viscosi to Griffiths, but his shot wasn't on-target and it just flew wide of the post.

The deadlock was eventually broken by Ben Haseley on 51 minutes as he latched on to a long ball and he nodded the ball easily over Viscosi and into the net, but the lead lasted all of two minutes as Grant Brindley nodded the corner ball over the Keeper and across the box to Daniel Elliott who was able to head the ball into an empty net.

Halesowen tried to get that all-important second goal as Joe Hull nodded the ball over to Ben Haseley, but he could only nod the ball wide.

Yeltz got the second goal they were searching for on 78 minutes, as Ben Haseley was able to nod the ball into the net from point blank range to give his side the lead they desperately needed.

Seven minutes later, the Yeltz made sure they took all three points as Jean-Michel Gueyes fired into an empty net from six yards out.

The Yeltz left Nottingham with all three points.

City push the Baggies closer to relegation



West Bromwich Albion's Graham Dorrans, right, celebrates scoring his side's goal

Man City 3 Albion 1

PEPE MEL'S side now have four matches to save their Premier League lives.

Graham Dorrans gave the 300-or-so hardy Baggies fans a moment to remember with a special goal.

And the Scot's wonderful strike on 15 minutes threatened for a while to hand City a similar scare to the one handed out by Sunderland less than a week earlier.

For Mel's men, however, the defensive demons that have blighted their season before and since his arrival ensured normal service was resumed.

With two pieces of shoddy defending and one absolute calamity, the visitors handed their expensively-assembled hosts a 3-1 half-time lead which they rarely looked like giving away.

It was Argentina 3 Albion 0 as

Pablo Zabaleta and Sergio Aguero gave Pellegrini's men a 2-0 lead inside 10 minutes before Martin Demichelis restored the two-goal cushion before the interval after Dorrans' goal had brought about a more confident spell for his side.

It got worse for Mel's side as early as the third minute when Zabaleta headed home.

Nine minutes from half-time Demichelis got score three.

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